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Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan, Iraq 'Reservations' Over Mubarak Plan

JN2909092789 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 27 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Amman said yesterday that King Husayn of Jordan and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn have expressed reservations over Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's 10-point plan on holding elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. AL-BAYAN has learned that the Jordanian monarch and the Iraqi president expressed their reservations to the Egyptian and Palestinian leaders in Sanaa yesterday. They called for putting pressure on the U.S. Administration and the big powers to expedite the convening of the international conference under UN supervision, and said that Egypt's current role should be to apply pressure on Israel, not to mediate between it and the Palestinians.

Islamic Affairs

Al-Ghabid Views Regional Mediation Efforts

PM2809093589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Sep 89 p 5

[Interview with Islamic Conference Organization Secretary General Dr Ahmad al-Ghabid by Ahmad Makhtum in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Makhtum] You are preparing to hold the coordination conference of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers in a few days. What are the most important issues which will be discussed at the conference?

[Al-Ghabid] The coordination conference of the Islamic states' foreign ministers will be held on 4 October in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session. The foreign ministers of the ICO member states will coordinate over the topics included on the General Assembly agenda, most importantly the Palestinian issue as well as the situations in Afghanistan, South Africa, and Namibia, in addition to the critical economic situation in Africa. [passage omitted]

[Makhtum] Will the situation between Iraq and Iran be included on the coordination conference's agenda?

[Al-Ghabid] The situation between Iran and Iraq is among the issues included in the agenda of the Islamic states' conference. The ICO pays attention to it, but the file is now in the hands of the UN secretary general. We in the ICO are currently anxious to back the UN secretary general's efforts. During the ministers' peripheral contacts there will be an exchange of views and contacts between the Iranian and the Iraqi sides in order to reactivate the negotiation process.

[Makhtum] How would you assess the tripartite committee's efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis?

[Al-Ghabid] We recently supported the tripartite committee's efforts, which are very important. We expressed our satisfaction at the resumption of the tripartite committee's work, and we now express our satisfaction at the acceptance of the committee's recommendations by the parties concerned and by world public opinion. And all the international organizations supported the resumption of the tripartite committee's mission. We hope that the tripartite committee will succeed in its good endeavors, since that is the only way to achieve peace in Lebanon.

[Makhtum] You visited Mauritania and Senegal recently in a bid to mediate between the two countries. What are the results of that mediation?

[Al-Ghabid] We must make clear first that the matter has nothing to do with mediation; it has to do with contacts with the two sides in order to become acquainted with the situation and persuade the two countries to accept dialogue. At the moment we support the OAU mediation via Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, on the grounds that he is the organization's present chairman. We see that the Islamic world must exert the necessary pressure on both countries, since both Mauritania and Senegal belong to the Islamic world. That is why the necessary pressure must be exerted and the resources and means exploited in order to ease the situation between the two countries and persuade them to positively accept President Husni Mubarak's mediation. [passage omitted]

[Makhtum] What efforts is the secretary general making to prompt the Islamic states to recognize the Afghan mujahidin government?

[Al-Ghabid] During my contacts with the member states I urged them to recognize the mujahidin government, but recognition remains a matter which concerns each state's sovereignty. [passage omitted]

ICO Conference Ends in Banghazi 26 Sep

LD2709230289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Banghazi, 27 Sep (JANA)—The Islamic Conference, which concluded its work at Banghazi yesterday, issued a statement declaring the establishment of the International Islamic Popular Command. The statement said:

At the invitation of Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Islamic 1 September Revolution, the conference of the Islamic Call at the Gates of a New Century was held in Banghazi for 2 consecutive days. Islamic strugglers, writers, intellectuals, and journalists and leaders of Islamic groups from approximately 46 countries who represent the various Islamic tendencies and movements all over the world, participated in the conference.

Brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi opened this conference with a detailed inspirational speech. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that the way to fulfill the great noble aims of the Islamic nation and to fulfill the aims of the jurisprudence is to establish a united popular command for mass Islamic action, which should rise above the secondary contradictions and trivial disputes in order to mobilize the energies in one direction—which is the confrontation of the primary conflict with the arrogant enemies and to mobilize all moral and material resources to destroy the danger of this conflict. [passage omitted]

The participants from the Islamic forces, parties, organizations, and effective societies, after studying this project for 2 days sincerely and in detail, decided to issue this historic statement on the occasion of this great event, which announced to the world the beginning of a united collective Islamic action which, God willing, will start a new phase of jihad for spreading the word of God. This phase will qualitatively and quantitatively differ from the previous ones. They stressed in their statement the following items and principles:

1. The Holy Koran is the immortal basic law of the Islamic societies, and the Sunna of the Prophet was the Prophet's appplication of God's law, which is the source of guidance to the masses of Muslims, and there is no other source of guidance;

2. Islam is the concluding religion sent by God to guide mankind. The salvation of all mankind from misery, oppression, exploitation, and enslavement is in following its jurisprudence and in implementing its civilized values and rulings in the relations of individuals and societies;

3. The masses of Muslims everywhere are God's party, and they have no other party. They demand good deeds, demand the end of evil deeds, establish God's will, support the weak, close their ranks, and sacrifice everything for spreading God's word;

4. Islam lays the foundations for a noble human civilization. It is a religion of knowledge and action, and a religion for the world and for heaven. It has no place for nonsense and dervishes and it does not accept excess or rigidity. It calls for looking carefully into everything that God created in the universe for the benefit of man and his progress and happiness.

5. The International Islamic Popular Command calls on the Islamic regimes to adhere to the principles of human rights as specified in Islam, the religion which calls for all Muslims to participate in governing and defending their countries and developing them. The command believes that this is the way to combat excess and to contain the phenomenon of extremism, to which some tendencies resort as an expression of despair instead of adopting mass struggle;

6. Working toward the achievement of an effective united Islamic body in the arena of international relations is a duty and a necessity. There is no doubt that unity of action is a basic step and definite way toward the fulfillment of the Muslims aspirations for comprehensive unity.

The state of residence and revolution witnessed in the various arenas of the currently divided Islamic world calls for a recognition of the individual characteristics of these arenas and demands a flexible manner in dealing with these characteristics stemming from understanding their temporary nature, without allowing this recognition to become a consecration of the divided state currently suffered by the Islamic world;

7. The activities of the International Islamic Popular Command include the political, social, economic, cultural, and information fields, and are concerned with giving services and aid to those who need them among the weak masses everywhere;

8. The conferees form a committee from the participating leaders of Islamic action. This will be considered as a secretariat responsible for administering the various aspects of activities, forming organizations, and adopting the necessary means for achieving their aims. The secretariat adopts the Koranic principle of consultation in administering its work, adopting its resolutions, and drawing up its executive programs;

9. The resources of the command's fund are the unconditional gifts and aid given by the Muslims, provided that they do not contradict its aims.

Palestinian Affairs

Salah Khalaf Sees 'Step Forward' in U.S. Policy

JN2809182089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] The PLO has expressed satisfaction with the statement made by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas at the UN General Assembly on the Middle East problem. Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] said that we especially appreciate this stance since France is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council. The position expressed by the French foreign minister is balanced and abides by the Madrid European Delcaration on the Middle East, Abu-Iyad added. Roland Dumas highlighted basic issues, namely, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the need for convening an international conference.

Abu-Iyad also spoke about the American and Soviet positions. He noted some progress in the American-Soviet statement on the Middle East. The two superpowers noted the need for finding a solution in the Middle East and expressed their support for the work toward a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. Abu-Iyad said that this constitutes a step forward with regard to the position so far adopted by the U.S. Administration.

Faruq Qaddumi Criticizes Bush UN Speech

JN2809183889 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 27 Sep 89 p 19

[Text] United Nations—(KUNA)—Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, has criticized the speech delivered by U.S. President George Bush before the UN General Assembly on 25 September for overlooking issues of interest to the Third World.

In an exclusive statement to KUNA, Qaddumi said that Bush's speech focused on drug smuggling and other issues which are hardly of interest to the poor nations. He added that the poor nations suffer from poverty, ignorance, and deteriorating health and educational levels, but Bush overlooked all these issues.

Qaddumi explained that President Bush is supposed to be the first advocate of peoples' rights to freedom and equality, but he failed to advocate them. He said Bush desires freedom for his friends only. He explained that as a man who worked as his country's chief delegate to the United Nations, Bush should implement the UN principles instead of ignoring them.

The Palestinian official explained that the U.S. President called in his speech for resolving regional disputes through dialogue, while the PLO's dialogue with the United States has yielded no results.

He said the United States pressures us to accept Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories, although President Bush certainly knows that this means overlooking an international conference for peace in which the five permanent UN Security Council member states would participate.

Qaddumi indicated that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is deadlocked because the United States has refrained from discussing the major points of the peace process and tried to discuss marginal issues. It has thus ignored the international conference and refused to pressure Israel. The Palestinian official described the U.S. side in the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue as a mere spectator instead of a mediator. He said that he does not attach great importance to the U.S. side because it might propose an idea today only to change it tomorrow.

When asked about the fate of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's rumored visit to the United Nations during its current session, Qaddumi said that 'Arafat did not and will not apply for a visa for the United States. He added that President 'Arafat does not feel that there is currently an urgent need for him to come to the United Nations.

Asked about the PLO position on the proposed elections in the occupied territories, Qaddumi said such elections must be linked to a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East issue. He added that the Israelis must leave the occupied territories after which a UN-sponsored international peace conference should be convened.

Answering a question on the 10-point plan proposed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for holding elections in the occupied Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip, Qaddumi said this plan is a set of questions addressed to the Israeli Government, not to the PLO.

PLO Official Views Jordan, U.S. Contacts

PM2809083389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Sep 89 p 4

[Layla Dib report: "Abu-Mazin Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Coordination Between Jordan and PLO Continuing; Another Round of Dialogue With the United States in 10 Days"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) left Amman yesterday at noon after a 3-day visit during which he held talks with Jordanian officials.

Before his departure for Cairo, Abu-Mazin stated to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his visits to Jordan would increase and be more regular, that is, within the framework of the continuing coordination between Jordan and the PLO.

He said that his visit dealt with coordination and the exchange of information, views, advice, and roles, so as to enable Jordan to do what the PLO is unable to do and vice versa; but he gave no details.

He described the Jordanian position on new developments in the Palestinian issue as heading toward and supportive of the Palestinian direction.

During his visit Abu-Mazin met with Jordanian Prime Minister Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and briefed them on the results of the talks which Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian state, held with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo regarding the peace process in the region and the contacts which the Palestinian leadership had conducted at the international level.

Marwan al-Qasim had emphasized that Jordan would continue to back and support PLO efforts in order to secure its participation in the peace process, with a view to enabling the Palestinian people to recover their legitimate rights.

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Abu-Mazin said that he conveyed to Jordanian officials all the results of Palestinian moves at the international level and with regard to the question of initiating a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and international dialogue at both the U.S.-Soviet and the UN levels, especially while President Mubarak, Faruq Qaddumi [head of the PLO Political Department], and Israeli officials are in New York during the UN General Assembly session.

Asked about what had happened in Cairo, 'Abbas said that the problem lies in Israel's rejection of the principle

of holding a dialogue with the Palestinians, of the Palestinian initiative, and of the 10 points presented by President Mubarak.

He added that if Israel agreed to a meeting, views would be put forward at the negotiating table, and then agreement on other matters could be reached.

On the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Abu-Mazin said that a new round will be held in Tunis in 10 days at the latest, when the Americans are expected to reply to a memorandum which Yasir 'Arafat submitted, asking them to clarify their position, especially on the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

He added that in the new round something new could be offered in view of the talks being held at the international level. He said: We hope that there will be new and positive points.

'Arafat Receives 'Important' Soviet Message

JN2909062889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Tunis, 28 Sep (WAKH)—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has received a message described as "important" from the Soviet leadership.

The Palestine News Agency WAFA, which carried this report tonight, said the message deals with the outcome of the talks between USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and with the latest developments related to the search for a solution to the Palestine question.

The message was delivered by the Soviet charge d'affaires in Tunis during his meeting today with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin.

'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad From Sanaa

JN2809201889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1827 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Baghdad from Sanaa last night on an official visit of several days to fraternal Iraq. Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar was welcomed at the airport by a number of senior Iraqi officials.

Intifadah Leadership Calls for Escalation

JN2809192889 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Call No 46 issued by the PLO-the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Call, call, call. No voice can override the voice of the intifadah. No voice can override the voice of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

In order to maintain the continuity and escalation of the intifadah, the Unified National Leadership of the intifadah calls for the following:

1. The Unified National Leadership hails the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] for the services it offers our masses and urges it to make further efforts to support the steadfastness of our masses in the steadfast Gaza Strip, and to extend its activity to include all those affected by occupation measures.

2. The organization of a wide-ranging campaign to provide supplies and medical items to support our people in Gaza.

3. The unified workers council to support the Strip workers' stand in regard to the magnetic identity cards, and to ask international labor unions to intervene and protest the occupation authorities' practices against our workers in the Strip.

4. The persistence of workers' sit-ins in front of international missions and organizations in the Strip.

5. The owners of factories, workshops, and large farms in the Strip to take on as many unemployed workers in the Strip as possible.

6. Our workers in the West Bank to cooperate with the Gaza Strip workers and to refuse taking their vacant positions in order to apply pressure on the occupation authorities to retract their racist measures against them.

7. Unified National Leadership warns against irresponsible acts carried out by some reckless people, especially entering schools during attendance time attempting to disturb study and forcing students out onto the streets, and calls on the striking forces to retaliate to and stop this behavior.

8. The Unified National Leadership calls for persistence to pursue agents and to stop their destructive activity by gradual measures, and not to resort to execution except in the case of the availability of national consensus and after consulting higher sources.

9. The Unified National Leadership calls for supporting our national industries and renews the call for boycotting Israeli goods.

10. The Unified National Leadership calls for the competent Palestinian bodies to support the agricultural sector as soon as possible in order to enable our farmers to continue to provide and to contribute toward building the state of Palestine's economy.

11. The Unified National Leadership hails our strugglers in Zionist prisons and detention centers, and urges them to achieve maximum unity and to work in accordance with unionist national action and mutual respect, particularly in Magiddo prison.

Masses of the intrepid intifadah, the Unified National Leadership calls on you to carry out the following activities:

25 and 26 September: Days of escalation and clashes with the occupation forces.

28 September: The anniversary of the death of Arab leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. We hail the people of Egypt and urge Egypt to take up its pan-Arab role regarding the Palestine issue by adhering to joint Arab resolutions and supporting the PLO's stand.

30 September: Comprehensive strike to protest the biased American stand in favor of Israel and its procrastination in dealing with our people's rights.

1 and 2 October: Days of joint social responsibility and visiting the wounded, martyrs' families, and prisoners.

3 October: Declaration of protest against the killing of our people's children by observing 2 minutes of silence throughout Palestine at 1000, and for each person to say prayers according to his faith.

9 October: The Palestinian flag to be raised throughout the State of Palestine on the anniversary of the October war.

9 October: A day of comprehensive strikes on the occasion of the intifadah entering its 23d month.

12 October: The Olive Day, during which people will go to olive groves to assist our farmers in the regions where olive picking season starts.

13 October: The Prophet's birthday: The Unified National Leadership congratulates our Palestinian people and all Islamic peoples.

14 October: A day of raising the Palestinian flag everywhere on the anniversary of the Qibbyah massacre.

We shall inevitably be victorious together and unified along the path of sacrifice and struggle.

[Signed] The Unified National Leadership of the intifadah in the state of Palestine.

'Blood,' 'Sacrifice,' Not Dialogue Effective

JN2709214889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1836 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] From time to time the United States speaks about discarding terrorism. This is an expression which has lost its meaning in view of Washington's complete silence on the daily [words indistinct] Zionist in occupied Palestine. Let us take as an example what has taken place in heroic and steadfast Bayt Sahur. The gangs of the Zionist army occupied the township, imposed a curfew on it, and started under the pretext of collecing taxes to [word indistinct] one after the other. During this, the furniture, electrical appliances, radios, and television sets were confiscated. Industrial material and tools were pilfered from the workshops and businesses in this township. Even mattresses were not saved from the large-scale Zionist act of piracy against the inhabitants of Bayt Sahur.

We do not believe that the annals of colonialist occupations have recorded such a state of affairs, not even in the era of Hitler, or Mussolini. If we add to this state of affairs the pictures of the demolition of houses in front of their inhabitants, the sealing of the doors of houses to prevent their occupants from entering them, or the uprooting of trees, we would like to ask Washington the following question: How can it describe these acts? Can it call them acts of self-defense? How can one explain this right of self-defense if those who exercise it are usurpers, occupiers, and ones who are armed with all kinds of weapons? Are not the unarmed Palestinians waging confrontation for the freedom, independence, and dignity of their homeland?

We know that all these questions are useless as there is a preplanned policy. Washington can never condemn Zionist terrorism because the blood and nerves of this terrorism are being nurtured by Washington.

As Palestinians, we know that our rights will not be regained with a logical dialogue, with legal panels of discussion. Had it been so, we would have resorted to an international court, and any international court, regardless of its status, will support what is right and will vehemently reject the falsehoods of the Zionist invaders. As Palestinians, we know that our blood and our sacrifices are our way to freedom. We also realize that Israel is not the only party that we confront and face. We are also confronting all the well-known colonialist countries, and their heir, U.S. imperialism.

From this premise, our arduous and protracted struggle has begun at the turn of the 20th century, and continues to take place while this century is on the verge of ending.

Our struggle is arduous. Our convoy of martyrs will be long. However, it is the only course to impose our will, to achieve our just peace, and to raise our banners high and free over holy Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, our beloved homeland. [passage omitted]

Abu-Rahmah Urges End to Boycott of Work in Israel

JN2909063189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] In the occupied territories, Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, chairman of the [Gaza] Bar Association, has called on Palestinians to stop boycotting work in Israel, contending that the boycott has achieved its aims.

Uprising Leaders Extend Aid to Farmers

JN2809115489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] Amman—Palestinian farmers received the support of the united leadership of the intifadah during their olive picking season this year, and Palestinian food products are finding their way to the European table, according to the president of the Farming Cooperative Councils Union in the occupied West Bank, Tahsin al-Faris.

"We called upon the united leadership of the intifadah through local newspapers to decrease violence during the olive season and within a few days, there was a leaflet distributed by the leadership calling on all able men to help farmers pick, store and transport the blessed olives," Al-Faris told the JORDAN TIMES.

The year 1989, according to Al-Faris, was the best olive season in more than 50 years. "We produced 32,000 tons of olive oil, which, in effect, means a national income of JD 40 million from our olive trees alone."

Another farming success story in 1989 is Palestinian produce reaching the European market. "We had a problem in marketing the excess of our produce in the Arab World and abroad, but need is the mother of invention so we created the Farming Cooperative Councils Union," said Al-Faris.

The union brought together 503 farmers' societies which represented 48,000 families; their representatives initiated market research to determine the areas which could absorb Palestinian produce.

"With our limited resources we started establishing assembly stations from which we exported our first trial batch of Palestinian produce to France with the help of the European Community (EC)," Al-Faris said.

He boasted that foreign experts' assessment of the Palestinian produce "was much higher than our expectations. We received $2,000 a ton because of the quality and packing of our produce."

The only sources of funding, outside the initiative of the farmers themselves, was from the Jordanian Cooperative Organization in the form of loans.

Al-Faris maintained that the "cooperatives" had a large role in supporting the intifadah and that they have emerged as "the infrastructure of the intifadah according to American experts who visited us and saw our work."

The cooperatives, according to Al-Faris, have made an effort throughout the intifadah to provide citizens with basic foods and staples.

"For example, a cooperative in Nabulus changed its farming choice on 18,000 dunums from watermelon to staples to fulfill the needs of the citizens of the West Bank," Al-Faris said. This practice was one of the main reasons why the West Bank was not able to provide its eastern counterpart with watermelon this year, he explained.

Al-Faris and four other members of the cooperatives union are currently in Amman to attend a conference of urban development and the economics of self-dependency in the occupied territories in light of the Jordanian and Egyptian experiences.

He said that representatives from the cooperatives were invited to the conference to "portray the correct picture of the land and its development in the occupied territories and define ways to ensure this development in light of the occupation."

According to Al-Faris, the farmers in the occupied territories need support in finding "markets, heavy equipment, experts and transportation and communication facilities."

These demands would help the farmers to strengthen "the infrastructure of the Palestinian urban areas and will support the steadfastness of man over his land."

Asked what the cooperatives expect to achieve during the Amman seminar, Al-Faris said: "We want to include several items in the recommendations of the seminar:
"(A) Considering the cooperatives as the infrastructure of the development plan in the occupied territories since they are the only public organisation capable of carrying this responsibility;
"(B) Supporting the cooperative morally by considering them as the main representatives of the farming and cooperative sector in Arab and foreign organisations.
"(C) Looking for Arab and European markets for the Palestinian excess produce.
"(D) Extending American and European expertise and help in cooperative and farming training."

OPEC Affairs

Iranian Oil Minister Views OPEC Quota Proposal

LD2809194289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Oil Minister Aqazadeh announced on his return to Tehran from the sesssion held by the committee in charge of supervising the OPEC market in Geneva that OPEC's recent agreement on increasing the oil production ceiling from 19.5 million barrels per day to 20.5 million barrels per day, and the division of that increase in accordance with the percentage of the existing quotas, is only a temporary 2-month decision. The oil minister, who gave an exclusive interview to the Central News Unit correspondent, said: Iran proposed a comprehensive plan to OPEC on the basis of which the official oil price of $18 per barrel is guaranteed. With the implementation of minor alterations in the quotas, the OPEC production ceiling and the official rate of all OPEC

member countries' oil production will increase in the winter. He said: Iran's plan has the approval of the majority of the OPEC member countries, and only the UAE and Libya have requested time to consult their governments before giving final approval.

According to the prediction of the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil minister, the 13 OPEC member countries will most probably convene an extraordinary session in the near future so as to review and give their final approval to Iran's plan.

Algeria

3d Session of FLN Central Committee Opens

Bendjedid Speaks

LD2809223989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] The 3d session of the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee opened this morning at the Palais des Nations with the attendance of the president and chairman of the FLN, Mr Chadli Bendjedid. The radio mission is on the line:

[Correspondent] The current session of the Central Committee, the 3d regular one, is discussing primarily the draft resolutions which will be submitted to the extraordinary FLN conference, and will also be submitted to the grassroots in order to deepen and enrich the activities of the FLN.

The agenda of the current session includes three proposals concerning the material preparations for the extraordinary conference and the basic changes, in addition to a proposal concerning the political preparations.

The president began his address by pointing out that the current Central Committee session is a preparatory session for the extraordinary FLN conference. He stressed the importance of working quickly and accurately in order to draw up a clear and firm program which takes into consideration the changes witnessed by the country since independence.

After stressing that the extraordinary conference is the conference of democracy and responsible dialogue among the strugglers in the FLN, because this is the basic condition for the success of the FLN and for its preservation in the field and in the leadership, Mr Chadli Bendjedid talked about the necessity of opening the dialogue and discussions for all those who believe in the principles, options, and beliefs of the FLN without exception. This included:

[Begin Bendjedid recording] If we really want the FLN to remain immortal, then we should prepare for handing the torch to the coming generation so that [words indistinct] with the firm principles and bases that were known to the FLN and the nation. Therefore, we say that the November generation and the FLN should open themselves and open all doors for this coming generation so that [words indistinct] the FLN in handing the torch [word indistinct], that is the sons of the FLN.

Of course, [word indistinct] through this is via the dialogue and discussion among the activists and also among the FLN and all its sons who at some time or another, perhaps for objective reasons, shouldered the responsibility, or perhaps some sides were not committed or did not adhere to the principles of the FLN.

However, this is not the subject I want. I say that the FLN should open the discussions and dialogue with all the sons of the FLN, with whoever wants to adhere to the principles of the FLN. This should be a common factor for everyone without exception. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The president explained in detail the work that should be done to face up to the changes dictated by development, and the necessity of having honesty and purity in expressing opinions within the framework of the principles of democracy while working within the ranks of the masses. Therefore, everyone has the duty to express their opinions quite frankly in the current reforms. This should stem from one preoccupation, which is the commitment to the country's interest.

Within the framework of the principle of purity which has become one of the aims of democratic action, the president pointed out that some of the practices, which are not compatible with the new style of action, still exist, especially the recent strike which occurred in the education sector as it was in the beginning of its new season. He said that such an action does not serve the interests of the country. In this respect he said:

[Begin Bendjedid recording] Such a strike as we witnessed, who does it benefit? At least in the recent strike. Is that good? Is this freedom? Is it right to strike like this? This is anarchy. In all respectable countries the problems are presented and they try to discuss them with the officials, and perhaps they reach a solution. They cooperate in many ways, from the parliament to the FLN and others. If they do not reach a solution, then they have the right to strike, but they should announce publicly that the strike will take place on such and such a date. It is up to them. Why is the secrecy? [words indistinct]

The purity I see in a clear perception without demagogic methods. [words indistinct] But there is objectivity, and with it we might be able to repair the mistakes. Anyone, whether from the media or anywhere, has the right to criticize this behavior. [end recording]

[Correspondent] After the president's address the opening session of the 3d FLN Central Committee was suspended to be resumed after 15 minutes. It was then chaired by Mr Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN Central Committee, who presented the agenda. Then the various proposals included in the agenda were presented. They are particularly linked with the preparations of the extraordinary conference.

The session was closed at 1245 and will be resumed this afternoon.

In conclusion, we would like to point out that the current Central Committee session will remain open for a long period, as pointed out by Mr Abdelhamid Mehri.

Extraordinary Congress Postponed

LD2809225489 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] After the president's speech, the proceedings continued and the session heard two

reports by the conference preparatory committee: the first was concerning financial preparation. According to the report, all the necessary conditions to ensure the success of the conference have been fulfilled. The second focused on preparations at the grassroots level; all the reports had been collected only 2 days before the convening of this session. This delay led the FLN Central Committee's secretary general to propose the postponement of the date for convening the extraordinary congress so that the 14 preparatory congresses can be convened in favorable circumstances. The point of completing a list of the participants in the extraordinary congress and the participation of the FLN leadership was discussed during the session.

Those two points formed the focus of wide-ranging discussions during today's evening session, which also concentrated on seeking a more favorable way of ensuring the success of the congress and fulfilling all the objective conditions that would lead to the climaxing [as heard] of the extraordinary congress in a working plan that would be in line with the current phase and the citizens' aspirations.

At the end of today, the participants of the FLN leadership in the congress was approved, and it was agreed to make a reappraisal in light of the discussion that dominated today's proceedings in order to specify the participants. The requirements of participation and the list are to be submitted for approval at the conclusion of the 3d session.

The date of the extraordinary congress was postponed to 28-30 November. It will be held under the banner of democracy, profitability, and justice.

Bendjedid Meets With PLO's 'Arafat

LD2609130889 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Algiers, 26/9/89 (APS)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, paid a brief visit to Algiers yesterday. Right after arrival he conferred with President Chadli Bendjedid on latest developments on the Arab scene and results of contacts at Arab and international levels concerning Palestine and Lebanon.

Yasir 'Arafat informed the head of state also on results of his mediation mission in the conflict opposing Mauritania, the Arab scene, and to inform President Chadli Bendjedid on barbarous practices of Israel and political reaction of the international community in this matter.

Yasir 'Arafat said the number of martyrs and wounded increases every day as well as the number of houses destroyed or burned. All these manoeuvres he indicated are aimed at sabotaging the intifadah. Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the morning in Algiers and left it in the afternoon.

In a statement in the airport he said the purpose of his visit is to follow developments on to Senegal, and of his visits into Guinea Bissau and Mali he insisted on the necessity to make all efforts to put an end to conflicts opposing friendly countries.

Talks between the two presidents took up also the situation in the Arab occupied territories and the escalation of crime perpetrated by Zionists against women and children.

Socialist Leader Attends Party Celebrations

LD2909091189 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The clauses of the February 1989 Constitution have been given concrete form again, especially the clauses that lead Algerian society into the age of pluralism. The democratic path took a practical turn with the organization of a meeting by one of the parties that has gained official recognition to mark its entry to legitimate activity—the Socialist Vanguard Party [Hizb al-Tali'ah al-Ishtirakiyyah]. For more details, over to correspondent Ammar Baccouche:

[Baccouche] There was a special atmosphere in the 'Ibn Khalidun hall. The entrance was filled by hundreds of men and women strugglers of the Socialist Vanguard Party in the first open mass activity in more than 31 years. The event was a part of the party's celebration of gaining the legal right to exercise open political activity in accordance with the Algerian Constitution endorsed by the people 23 February 1989.

Well-known faces and veteran strugglers were welcomed by the young people with flowers and with great enthusiasm. Foremost among them was the first secretary of the Socialist Vanguard Party, Sadek Hadjeres, was appearing in public for the first time after over 30 years of covert political work.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Baccouche] What about the future?

[Hadjeres] For the future, we want to support democracy—the democratic process which has begun in the country; to support by political struggle in an atmosphere of forgiveness and unity, and to get the country out of the crisis. There should be no need for a party to work covertly. We have experienced covert action. There is bound to be results, but the price will be high. It would be better to build a society in which no party would need to work underground. We must build and construct our dear country by all our joint efforts. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Baccouche] In his speech at the meeting Sadek Hadjeres presented a historical but brief insight into the struggle of the Algerian communist movement over a period of more than 50 years. He then went on to present his party's view of future political action. This, basically, will revolve around avoiding all that might divide and separate the efforts of all national forces and curb our contribution to resolving the difficult problems faced by

the country. He pointed out the need to work for the emergence of a broad-based national democratic front at national level which will not be subject to the domination of any party or trend, and which will assume responsibility for the problems and issues that are pressingly urgent for Algerian society.

Constitutional Council Rules on Deputies' Status

LD2709202189 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Five articles on the status of deputy have been declared unconstitutional: The information is given by the latest JOURNAL OFFICIEL of 4 September and it is the Constitutional Council, to which the president of the Republic referred the matter, which has settled it. So, there will be no diplomatic passport for the deputies, no participation in the assemblies of their constituencies because they have a national mandate, and no temporary appointments [in addition to their occupation as deputy] as this could result in situations detrimental to the necessary autonomy of each constitutional body. This is a summary of the main points.

Egypt

Mubarak Arrives in New York, Meets Israel's Peres

NC2809203689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has begun a series of meetings in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations meetings. At his place of residence in New York, he received Shim'on Peres, Israeli vice prime minister and finance minister.

A Cairo radio team has learned that the talks dealt with issues relating to the Egyptian 10-point plan for the peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue and to the question of holding a dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian delegations to discuss the Middle East conflict. Mubarak arrived in New York from Paris at 1330 New York time, 2030 Cairo time. [passage omitted]

Peres Says Gap 'Narrowed Considerably'

NC2909085489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0031 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (MENA)—Shim'on Peres, Israeli vice prime minister and finance minister, has stated that the gap in differences between Egypt and Israel has been narrowed considerably. He said that further efforts may fill in this gap. He pointed out that this, in his view, can be achieved by beginning the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue that Egypt had first discussed.

In a statement to MENA, Peres praised President Husni Mubarak. He said that during his meeting with Mubarak tonight, he found him, as usual, wise and splendidly knowledgeable about all affairs. He said: "We must admit that in his initiative, President Mubarak had taken into account the sensitivities of both the Israeli and Palestinian parties." He noted that this might be the beginning of a transformation greater than many people expect. He expressed his belief that President Mubarak's current visit to the United States is of great importance and that the Americans will listen to him with due attention and respect.

Editorials Score Shamir Stand on 10-Point Plan

NC2809092689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR criticize Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's stand on Egypt's proposal to host Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo, as well as Shamir's earlier rejection of the 10 points raised by President Husni Mubarak to clarify Israel's intentions.

In their editorials today, the two papers write that the Egyptian proposal to launch a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue has become the focus of world attention, including that of the two superpowers. The proposal has been tentatively accepted by the two superpowers, and endorsed at the Arab, Palestinian, and world levels.

AL-AHRAM notes that the emphasis given to the need for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue during the talks between the U.S and Soviet foreign ministers in Wyoming is another achievement of the Palestinian cause, even if the U.S. and Soviet sides expressed different points of view.

The paper points out that the world interest in the Egyptian proposals did not arise in a vacuum. It was prompted by the fact that several countries have confidence in Egyptian diplomatic efforts. Furthermore, the paper adds, there is a strong belief that the Egyptian step was taken with the approval of the Palestinian leadership. This means that half the distance has been covered already.

In conclusion, the paper notes that, except for Israel, all parties concerned have paved the way for a dialogue to arrive at a just and comprehensive solution to the problem.

AL-AKHBAR sees Shamir's rejection of all efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement as evidence of his lack of the most basic qualities of a successful politician, especially flexibility and the ability to respond to changes in both domestic and foreign conditions.

The paper adds that further proof of the shortsightedness of Shamir's recent stand is his fear that Israel's participation in talks with Palestinians in Cairo could be interpreted as an Israeli defeat and a Palestinian victory.

The paper concludes that the cost of any delay in the establishment of peace will be borne by the victor and vanquished alike. No people will forgive leaders who reject favorable opportunities to provide a safe and secure life for their citizens.

Israelis Hold Talks in Cairo on Gulf of Aqaba

JN2909092189 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Sep 89 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Sattar Abu-Husayn]

[Text] Amid a media blackout, an Israeli delegation from the ministries of foreign affairs and tourism headed by the deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry arrived in Cairo last Wednesday [20 September] to hold talks regarding navigational arrangements in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Over 2 days the Israeli delegation held talks with officials from the [Egyptian] Foreign Ministry. The talks dealt with laws governing the passage and anchorage of ships in the Gulf of Aqaba after ships of the Israeli enemy infiltrated into Egyptian territorial waters and were confronted by the Egyptian forces on more than one occasion last year.

Egypt refused to include in the talks any subjects related to the Egyptian sovereignty over territorial waters in the area. Cairo agreed to cooperate in arrangements for rescuing victims of maritime incidents. Egypt postponed the Israeli request to hold these talks more than once in the past 2 months.

Officials in the Ministry of Tourism denied holding any talks with the Israeli delegation or knowledge of its arrival. A national newspaper has pointed out that the Israeli delegation arrived to hold talks with officials in the Ministry of Tourism concerning cooperation in tourism between Egypt and Israel.

Trade Union Leader on Ties With Syria, Israel

PM2809081989 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 12 Sep 89 p 9

[Interview with Egyptian Trade Union Federation Chairman Ahmad al-'Amawi by 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kafri in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-BA'TH: How do you assess your trade union talks and official meetings held in Damascus?

Al-'Amawi: I really believe that this visit and these talks have been among the most successful in my life as a trade unionist. I also believe that the meeting between the Egyptian and Syrian trade union federations, after a period of estrangement exceeding 10 years, is quite significant. This kind of cooperation has been lacking at the Arab level. I can, therefore, say and emphasize that, in view of this meeting and the other official meetings held, I am very optimistic about the future, and I do believe that we will do some good for our Arab working class, particularly in the fields of cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal organizations in Egypt and Syria. I think we are entering a period of broad and fruitful cooperation. My assessment of the talks and the meetings held is therefore a positive one. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH: How do you view Syria's pan-Arab role, its support for Lebanon, and its sacrifices in the interest of Lebanon's unity and Arabism and in the interest of foiling the partition plot?

Al-'Amawi: By God, we cannot say that any Arab would accept the partition of Lebanon. Without going into details, I believe that we all agree that Lebanon must remain Arab and united. We must all work for stability in Lebanon and for an end to the Lebanese people's suffering. I believe that this is the common objective of all Arabs and of all Arab countries. We hope that this can be achieved through the solutions proposed at the Casablanca summit conference and through the tripartite committee, through goodwill and serious work to restore stability in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH: What is the Egyptian Trade Union Federation's position on the question of normalization with the Zionist enemy?

Al-'Amawi: Normalization between the Egyptian Trade Union Federation and the Histadrut is impossible. I say that there can be no such normalization. That, furthermore, is the decision of the congress of the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions. Normalization is farfetched and is not under consideration, indeed we will not even allow it to be open to discussion.

AL-BA'TH: Does your position on normalization with the Zionist enemy apply only to the Histadrut, or does it also apply to the general concept of normalization with its various aspects?

Al-'Amawi: By God, if we workers are not willing to normalize relations with the Israeli workers organization, would we normalize relations with anyone else? As an Egyptian citizen, not as chairman of the Egyptian Trade Union Federation, I say that normalization between the Egyptian people and Israel is a farfetched notion. It is not even imposed by the state. It is out of the question. [passage omitted]

Aid Agreements With U.S. Signed in Cairo

JN2809171289 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] An official source at the Egyptian International Cooperation Ministry has stated that agreements worth $538 million have been signed with the United States as part of the U.S. aid program for 1989, estimated at $815 million. Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, is expected to sign an agreement worth $162 million with the United States to support the energy sector and to expand electrical energy projects.

The source said that Dr Makramallah met with the American ambassador in Cairo before leaving for the United States to discuss a number of issues that will give

a momentum to the cooperation between Egypt and the United States in light of President Mubarak's visit to Washington.

Sudan News Agency Chief Arrives for Visit

NC2309151189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1229 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—Ahmad Badr al-Din, Sudanese television director and SUNA chairman, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit of several days.

The Sudanese official will discuss cooperation between the Egyptian and Sudanese television services and between MENA and SUNA. Egyptian Television Director 'Abd al-Salam al-Nadi received Badr al-Din at the airport.

Romanian Trade Union Delegation Arrives in Cairo

NC2709141989 Cairo MENA in English 1141 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 27 (MENA)—A Romanian delegation representing the Trade Union of Administrative Services and Popular Councils arrived here today for a week-long visit to Egypt. The Romanian trade unionist delegation is expected to sign a protocol on cooperation with the administrative services trade union and is also to meet with a number of officials.

Sudan

Al-Qadhdhafi, Museveni Mediation Sought

EA2809213089 Khartoum SUNA in French 1515 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Khartoum, 28 September—Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, had a meeting in Khartoum today with the secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau of the embassy in Sudan. During the meeting, Mr Kassiano discussed bilateral relations with the Libyan diplomat, particularly in the sectors of security and the economy. They also discussed the role that could be played by the Libyan leadership in the restoration of peace in the country. [Khartoum SUNA in English at 1615 GMT on 28 September adds: "Brigadier Kassiano said he asked the ambassador to encourage the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to invest his good relations with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to realize peace in the country."]

Garang Comments on Talks With Government

NC2809183889 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Harare, Sept 28 (AFP)—Sudanese rebel leader John Garang ruled out immediate prospects of mediation to end his country's civil war Thursday, suggesting that talks were on with Khartoum as he ended a five-day visit to Zimbabwe.

Colonel Garang, head of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), told reporters that "we don't have the problem of talking" to the military junta in Khartoum.

"Khartoum has not refused to talk to us. We can only need a mediator when we have failed to come together," he said, adding that the situation had not arisen.

He also rejected charges made by the Sudanese Embassy here that the rebels had set out listed prior conditions for talks with Khartoum, including what the embassy called "totally unacceptable" demands for a broad-based government in Sudan.

The embassy had issued a statement protesting at the official reception accorded Col. Garang during his five-day visit. He was put up at the State Guest House and appeared on Zimbabwe television with Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira.

In an interview with the local press Wednesday, Col. Garang said the SPLM wanted a national unity government, a constitutional conference, general elections in Sudan and the merging of the SPLA, armed wing of the rebel movement, with the Sudanese Armed Forces.

"These are not pre-conditions," he stressed Thursday. "They are the SPLM's peace programme which we want the junta to discuss, and if they have better ideas to enrich this programme or to substitute for it, we are quite willing to listen."

Col. Garang left Harare later Thursday for an unspecified destination. He said that he had already visited several countries in Europe and Africa, but did not name them.

The SPLM has been fighting since 1983 to free mainly Christian and animist south Sudan from what it perceives as domination by the Moslem north of the country. A ceasefire has generally been observed since April, before troops ousted a civilian coalition in Khartoum on June 30.

The junta has launched its own "national dialogue" on peace, which is in committee session in the Sudanese capital. Observers have seen this as a move to take the initiative from the SPLM while Khartoum moves closer to Ethiopia, which has in the past backed the rebels.

Garang Lectures at Zimbabwe University

EA2709172189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Continuing his visit in Zimbabwe, the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Sudanese People's Liberation Army] leader, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, yesterday, Tuesday, 26 September 1989, gave a brilliant lecture to the Zimbabwean students in Harare University. The theme of the lecture was prospects of peace in Sudan, and it attracted a large number of students, forcing the organizers of the lecture

to change the venue from the original hall to a bigger one, which was filled to capacity with some students left standing outside.

The lecture was organized by the International Affairs Association of Zimbabwe, an organization of activists, scholars, researchers, writers, practitioners and many other people interested in international affairs. According to one of the organizers, the main objective of this organization is to mobilize members of the academic community for political work in support of the struggle for liberation, human rights, socioeconomic development, open debate on all public issues, popular and mass participation, and peace internationally.

The SPLM/SPLA leader, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, spoke at length on the problems that led to the outbreak of the war in 1983 and the peace initiatives that the movement has advanced. He stressed that the objective of the SPLM/SPLA is to create a new united democratic Sudan of justice, equality and prosperity for all, adding that since Sudan became independent 33 years ago, its people have not been able to forge a commonality to which they pay their undivided allegiance regardless of race, religion, or tribe. This commonality, he said, is the new Sudan which the SPLM/SPLA is fighting to create.

The SPLM/SPLA leader outlined the movement's peace program in four points as follows:

1. The formulation of a broad-based government that includes all the nonsectarian political parties and trade unions and the release of all political detainees who are not accused of corruption.

2. The formation of a new army, the army of the new Sudan that will include the SPLA and the Sudanese Army and which will be qualitatively different from the army of the old Sudan.

3. The convening of the national constitutional conference to resolve the fundamental problems of the country and to draft a permanent constitution for the new Sudan.

4. The organizing and conducting of elections to an assembly that would ratify the draft constitution.

The SPLM/SPLA leader assured the Harare University students, teachers, lecturers and members of the Zimbabwean and international press, radio and TV that the SPLM/SPLA and other democratic forces in the Sudan will go on with the revolution until a new united and democratic Sudan is achieved.

The lecture was punctuated by loud applause and clapping from the students, who described the SPLM/SPLA leader as our new African leader. The chairman and commander-in-chief also listened to and answered questions from the students. Dr John Garang was awarded the symbol of the Harare University by the lecturers and made an honorary member of the university staff. The lecture lasted for about 4 hours.

Radio SPLA Interviews Officer on Prisoners

EA2709181989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Interview with Comrade Captain Edward Lino Abyei by Comrade Mukii Batalli of Radio SPLA during SPLA leader John Garang's trip to Europe and America—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] The first question asked by Comrade Mukii Batalli was: How were they received in those countries?

[Begin recording] [Abyei] The receptions were very cordial and very warm, and they reflected the deep concern of the countries to which our leader, Dr John Garang de Mabior, paid the visits. It was very cordial in West Germany. It was very cordial in Switzerland. It was very cordial in America, as well as in Britain. And even when we went to Rome also on his behalf, the reception was very cordial.

[Batalli] Why has the movement chosen this time for a diplomatic counter-offensive?

[Abyei] Of course, as you all know that Khartoum has always been roaming the world, spreading venom of lies, saying the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] is a warmongering movement, that the SPLA is being very intransigent in the process of peace, and also we have another fact, that the SPLA today is controlling areas, there are areas that fall under its administration. The area under our administration right today is larger than that of Ghana, so it is imperative that this is the right time that people have to go out and ask for assistance—humanitarian assistance, of course—from all these countries and development that is now starting—rehabilitation and development starting in these areas, so the mission was to explain the position of the SPLA, the cause of the war, the process of the war, the prospect of peace, and what the SPLA has done all this time, and what the Khartoum government on the other side is doing and, of course, we cannot always be—those countries do not belong to Khartoum. Our leader has the right to go to any country to explain our position. We know that Khartoum was irritated when the chairman went to Bonn, when he went to Britain, when he went to America—and they were irritated, simply because there we were able to unearth and also cover the lies of Khartoum. Now the truth is known to the whole world. [passage omitted]

[Batalli] The commander-in-chief met the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] in Geneva. Can you enlighten our listeners on what they discussed on the exchange of POW's and the future of the people behind the SPLA lines, and specifically those who will be coming out from the main towns of Juba Wau, and Malakal? Will there be any help from the ICRC to resettle them?

[Abyei] The ICRC organized the invitation and the visit of the commander-in-chief to Geneva. In Geneva he was very warmly received at a luncheon thrown by the ICRC, and afterwards it was followed by meetings. And in these meetings, the ICRC asked about the position of the POW's.

Of course that is well-known. The SPLA, we have over 1,000 POW's in our hands and also we all know that the enemy does not spare anyone, any of our soldiers who fall in their hands. We are quite aware that on 27 December 1986, 21 men from our side were killed around Rank, and Khartoum was coming out belligerently saying that they were killed for their own good and, in spite of this, the commander-in-chief said that he had asked [as heard] the ICRC that the SPLA is ready to exchange POW's. That is, if they have POW's from our side—with Khartoum—then we are ready to exchange them. Of course, that one has its own mechanism, but this is what has been said as far as the POW's are concerned.

Moreover, he asked the ICRC to come and give assistance to these POW's, because the SPLA is doing its best to feed them, to give them medicine and other things like clothes and things they want, and the ICRC has taken note of this and we are expecting them at any time to respond. Moreover, we had asked that if the families could be allowed to write letters, and the SPLA's position is that the families can write, sorry, can write to their families in order to know about their condition. [as heard] [passage omitted]

So, as far as the POW's are concerned, what was discussed with the ICRC was first, exchange of POW's. Second, it is an international mandate of the ICRC to look after and to help in looking after the POW's. Three, that they could write to their families, and the ICRC will take the letters there and this was done, and the commander-in-chief underlined very seriously to the ICRC that the Sudan Government will not accept this, but nonetheless it's a humanitarian right, even the POW also has his own right, and we are all doing this in spite of the fact that the SPLA is not a signatory to the international covenants regarding how to treat the POW's.

We respect that international covenant in spite of the fact that we are not signatories to it. Khartoum does not respect that covenant in spite of the fact that it has signed, because it is a state, it has signed that covenant. So from these two positions you can see who the warmongers are and who is for genuine peace and who is treating people much more humanely. And this is the position as far as the POW's are concerned. [end recording]

Spokesman Denies Reports of Cabinet Reshuffle

JN2809170289 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 27 Sep 89 p 1

[By 'Uthman Sayyid Ahmad]

[Text] The official spokesman for the Sudanese Government yesterday denied reports carried by some news agencies the day before yesterday to the effect that a limited Cabinet reshuffle will be effected. According to these reports, Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul will leave the Cabinet and be replaced by incumbent Information Minister 'Ali Shummu, whereas Muhammad Khawjali al-Salihin, or any other person deemed suitable for the job, will be appointed as a new information minister.

In a statement to AL-YAWM, 'Ali Muhammad Shummu, official Sudanese Government spokesman, said that many newspapers and news agencies do not seek accuracy in their reporting of events and developments. He added that these newspapers and news agencies attribute baseless statements to Sudanese officials.

It should be recalled that Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, issued a decree on the evening of the day before yesterday appointing Muhammad Khawjali al-Salihin as director general of the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY, "SUNA", the post having been vacant since the outbreak of the national salvation revolution on 30 June 1989.

In addition, the official spokesman indicated to AL-YAWM that a large number of the news reports on Sudan carried by news agencies, particularly the Western ones, contain numerous falsehoods and lies. He added that most of these news agencies do not mention the names of the officials whose statements are quoted. Most of them say that they obtained a statement or a news report from "informed or reliable sources," he said. He went on to say that most of these agencies use a specific set of words to conceal their fabrication of news reports. They most often use the words "learned", "obtained", and "acquired", etc, he said.

When asked how true were reports that antigovernment demonstrations have been staged, Shummu said that these were not demonstrations in the real sense of the word. He added that they were incidents involving individual communists at Khartoum University. He added that these individuals have been apprehended.

Upper Nile Commander Said Upholding Cease-Fire

EA2809134189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] The Upper Nile area military commander has confirmed the calmness of military operations in the area and his forces' complete maintenance of the cease-fire that was enforced 3 months ago.

Staff Major General Taj al-Sir al-Badawi said that the security situation in the region is (?better), pointing out that those displaced have started returning. The military commander for the Upper Nile area added that the food situation in the region has improved. He stressed that his forces are now working on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of war damage, especially schools and hospitals.

Tunisia

President Appoints New Justice Minister

LD2809125789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, who said after the meeting that the head of state has decided to appoint Moncef Bouaziz to the post of justice minister. He added that the president has confirmed the members of the Cabinet in their posts. The prime minister said also that the president of the republic has decided to remove ministerial status from the post of governor of the Central Bank and has confirmed Isma'el Khalil as governor of the bank. Governor Mohamed Sa'd of Kef Province has been appointed director of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Kuwait

New Iranian Ambassador Hoseyn Sadeqi Arrives

LD2909101989 Kuwait KUNA in English
0835 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 29 (KUNA)—The Iranian Ambassador Hoseyn Sadeqi arrived here Thursday evening to take charge of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran here.

On arrival, he was greeted at the airport by the embassy staff.

Inspection of Israeli Nuclear Plants Urged

LD2809212189 Kuwait KUNA in English
1847 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Vienna, Sept 26 (KUNA)—Kuwait Thursday appealed on world countries, particularly the major powers which take responsibility for maintaining world peace and security, to pressure Israel into heeding international calls by opening its nuclear facilities to inspection and supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Addressing the general conference of the Vienna-based U.N. organisation, Kuwait's delegate 'Ali al-Sa'id today underlined world anxiety over Israel's adamant rejection to put its nuclear installations under the agency's supervision and inspection, pointing out the dangers posed by Israel's nuclear potentials to international peace and security.

The Kuwaiti delegate also criticized the report submitted by the IAEA's Director-General Hans Blixe on Israel's nuclear power and the threat thereof to the Middle East area, describing the report as 'generalized, vague and does not meet the vital need to expose Israel's real nuclear capabilities and the danger they pose to peace in the area.'

Al-Sa'id also protested mentioning of Kuwait next to Israel on the director-general's report, saying 'we are astonished that the director-general has linked Kuwait to Israel. Kuwait, as is known to all, has no nuclear activity and does not contemplate at present the use of nuclear energy. Therefore, the said report should have rather concentrated on Israel which constitutes an increasing menace to security in the area.'

The delegate defended the lawful right of the Palestinian state to take part in the agency's activities as observer, indicating to the wide world recognition received by the state of Palestine, which, he stressed, should have the right of observer status to participate in the agency's scientific and technical deliberations, board of governors and general conferences.

Kuwait also demanded more representation for Africa, the Middle East and South Asia regions on the agency's board, complaining that the present representation is neither adequate nor balanced.

The delegate renewed Kuwait's support to efforts by the agency aimed at expanded use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and pointed out to Kuwait's contribution to financing of technical projects in some countries in collaboration with the IAEA as well as cooperation with the agency in nuclear medicine, saying the Kuwait centre for isotopes receives trainees sent by the agency. Kuwait, he said, shares with world nations their concern at environmental pollution as result of increased emission of cloroflurocarbons and deforestation and calls for expanded use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, the delegate concluded.

Helicopter Crash Leaves 1 Dead, 1 Injured

JN2809162289 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
27 Sep 89 p 1

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Defense has mourned 1st Lieutenant pilot Muslih Muhammad Muslih al-Matiri who was killed yesterday morning in an Air Force helicopter crash over the Bubyan area during a routine daily training flight.

The Directory of Moral Guidance and Public Relations said in a statement that Lieutenant pilot Khalaf 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mutlaq al-Shammari, who accompanied martyr Muslih, was injured in the incident. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Al-'Attas Delivers Revolution Day Address

EA2509111989 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Speech by Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the 26 September Revolution—recorded]

[Text] Dear brother citizens, sons of our great Yemeni people: On the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the glorious 26 September Revolution, allow me to extend to all the sons of our noble Yemeni people everywhere, greetings and warm congratulations on my own behalf and on behalf of the comrade members of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee and its Political Bureau, the members of the Supreme People's Council presidium, and the council of ministers.

Dear brother citizens: Our Yemeni people are celebrating the 27th anniversary of the 26 September Revolution in the context of a new atmosphere and great achievement on the part of the Yemeni revolution with its two wings, of September and October, on the path to a radiant and prosperous future. This is the path to social progress and Yemeni unity—the hope and the primary aim for which all the Yemeni patriotic forces have struggled and continue to struggle. We consider this to be a suitable occasion to reaffirm our determination to continue struggling towards fully achieving all the aims of the Yemeni revolution and our firm conviction and optimism that we have the capacity to achieve these objectives.

The source of our conviction and optimism lies in the determination of our people who have proven during the past 27 years of unflinching struggle their devotion to, regard for, and faith in the principles of the Yemeni revolution—the principles of 26 September and 14 October—and in their unequivocal rejection of all forms of retreat from or compromise of those principles. They have also expressed, at various stages, their devotion to the unity of the Yemeni revolution and unity of action in the national struggle against all conspiracies and machinations aimed at bringing about the destruction and undermining of the Yemeni people by splitting their national movement and dismembering their great revolution.

Another source of our conviction and optimism lies in the radiant horizons of our revolutionary course in the light of existing facts and the many great achievements which have been brought about in the Yemeni arena in both the north and the south. These achievements include the discovery of oil and the beginning of its exploitation in the two parts of the homeland, as well as working towards extracting it jointly.

There is also a collection of agricultural, industrial, and other achievements which adds substance to the capabilities and resources guaranteeing the Yemeni people enhanced capacity in strengthening and deepening their national independence and opening up, with their true determination, a broader path toward ensuring the construction of a strong and prosperous united Yemen.

Brother citizens: There is no doubt that what Yemeni people, both in the north and the south, have achieved has been brought about primarily by virtue of their efforts. Moreover, there is no doubt that further achievements will depend first and foremost on the unity of the people and their principled devotion to united action to bring about a totally united Yemen.

I am happy to confirm to our masses in the two parts, on this glorious occasion, the determination of the political leaderships in the two parts to preserve the unifying achievements, as well as their unwavering determination to harness those achievements to new projects (?to enable) Yemeni society (?to forge ahead), particularly in the direction of achieving economic and social consolidation to guarantee the dawning of the day of aspired unity, when (?Yemeni) society will have woven itself into a single, homogeneous fabric.

We regard the relations of mutual trust and confidence between the leaderships in the two parts, which, in our opinion, are stronger today than at any time in the past. The establishment of this trust and confidence is one of the most outstanding achievements so far, and we also believe it constitutes an important guarantee, maintaining the course of unifying action while working toward the desired goals.

As for the interaction of Yemen, in its two parts, with the Arab world, it can be confidently stated that as a result of Yemen's role in joint growth, Yemen has become the subject of attention and appreciation on the part of the Arab nation and fraternal states. The closer the relations between the leaderships of the two parts have become and the greater the degree of coordination between them, the more positively this has reflected on the role of the Yemeni homeland and its active influence upon the Arab nation's destiny: first and foremost, the cause of the Palestinian people, the crisis in fraternal Lebanon, and the other greater causes of the single Arab nation.

We regard the convening of the second summit of the Arab Cooperation Council in Sanaa, in the context of the September celebrations, as one of the manifestations and expressions of the effective and positive role being performed by the Yemeni homeland in the Arab arena towards unifying Arab efforts and resources in confronting the enormous provocations looming up before our Arab nation. On this occasion we wish the Sanaa summit success.

Brother citizens: As we celebrate the 27th anniversary of the 26 September Revolution, we project our joy towards welcoming the 26th Anniversary of the 14 October Revolution. We remember with pride and gratitude all the martyrs of the Yemeni revolution; martyrs of the Yemeni people; their knights and heroes, who generously gave their lives for the sake of the freedom, independence, progress, and unity of the Yemeni people; and with their heroism, loyalty, and love for Yemen and the Yemeni people, they offered a splendid example of heroism and honor.

We confirm and reaffirm our determination to continue advancing their great cause, preserving the principles and aims for which they gave their lives until the aims of the Yemeni revolution, the revolution of the great Yemeni people, are fully realized. Once again, we congratulate our Yemeni masses on this glorious occasion. We are with you, hand-in-hand, in realizing further achievements on the way towards the united and prosperous Yemen.

Thank you.

Yemen Arab Republic

PDRY Delegation Concludes Visit, Departs

JN2809202289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, member of the Politburo and minister of defense; and Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the Central Committee and minister of state for unity affairs in the southern part of the homeland; and the delegation accompanying them, left Sanaa this afternoon after attending our Yemeni people's celebrations on the 27th anniversary of the glorious 26 September Revolution. [passage omitted]

Arens on Meeting With U.S., Egypt Counterparts

TA2909072989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by 'Eran Ben-Porat on 28 September in New York—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Porat] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, the tripartite meeting between you, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and the Egyptian foreign minister, has just ended. Can you tell us in a nutshell whether the differences between Israel and the Egyptians were felt or even emphasized, or whether our positions moved closer together?

[Arens] I would say that both of these descriptions are true. On one hand, the Egyptian foreign minister said that they have adopted the fourth point of the Israeli Government's peace initiative. I attempted to persuade him that Egypt should embrace the entire initiative in all its four points. Nevertheless, they support the fourth point.

[Ben-Porat] Can you remind us what the fourth point is?

[Arens] The fourth point is the elections by the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The Egyptians support this process. On the other hand, however, they are trying to promote a meeting between an Israeli delegation and a Palestinian representation. Here they actually mean the PLO, or representatives empowered by the PLO, in this or that manner. Regarding this matter, Israel has...

[Ben-Porat, interrupting] Have you categorically rejected any possible participation of people identified with the PLO?

[Arens] Of course. The Israeli Government's basic guidelines preclude this; they decree that the Israeli Government will not hold any negotiations with the PLO. The peace initiative that was endorsed by the Cabinet also clearly stipulates that no negotiations will be held with PLO representatives.

[Ben-Porat] Was there any clear-cut discussion of Mubarak's 10-point plan?

[Arens] No [Arens pauses], no.

[Ben-Porat] The plan was not even brought up?

[Arens] The meeting was relatively long, and we discussed all possible issues relating to the peace process and the Israeli peace initiative.

[Ben-Porat] How would you describe the tripartite session? As a pleasant meeting, or a discussion between people holding contrasting views?

[Arens] Look, one can have a pleasant meeting even when disagreements exist. I would describe the meeting as pleasant. We agreed on some issues and differed on others.

[Ben-Porat] Was there any progress toward agreement on a delegation for negotiations with the Palestinians?

[Arens] No. I think that the enhanced agreement should be seen in Egypt's declaration that it supports one of the four clauses in the Israeli initiative. This is what should be emphasized.

[Ben-Porat] Minister Arens, are you aware of the political ruckus within Israel, especially in your own party, following your trip to the United States? Some very acerbic barbs were sent in your direction, mainly by Minister Ari'el Sharon.

[Arens] Yes.

[Ben-Porat] So you have heard of this brouhaha.

[Arens] Yes, I know of it.

[Ben-Porat] So what is your response to all your detractors?

[Arens] I must tell you that I am very busy here, rushing from meeting to meeting. These things do not figure very high on my list of priorities. If I indeed decide to comment on these remarks, it will only be when I am back in Israel, not while I am overseas.

[Ben-Porat] In addition to your session today, you already had several meetings in New York with political figures. For example, you met with Minister Shevardnadze. Did you at any time sense another step forward in Israel's relations with foreign countries, including those belonging to the East bloc?

[Arens] I think we are nearing that, or at least moving in that direction. The steps we are taking may not be at a rapid pace, but in my opinion the process is continuing, slowly but surely.

Arens, Shevardnadze Agree on Joint Committees

TA2809162589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] The Soviet foreign minister has called on Israel to talk with the PLO, and suggested holding the talks in his country.

Our New York correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that in his meeting with Foreign Minister Arens, Minister Shevardnadze said that he found positive aspects in both Israel's peace initiative and Egypt's 10-point plan, but he believes there will not be a settlement if the PLO is not a partner to the political process.

The two ministers agreed that joint working committees would meet before the end of the year to discuss the Middle East peace process, and try to overcome the gaps in the two countries' positions on bilateral issues.

USSR Official Sees Future for Trade

TA2809113889 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Sep 89 p 3

["Exclusive" report by correspondent in Paris Gid'on Kouts]

[Excerpt] "There is a great future for our joint plans," said Bagrat Arutyunov, a member of the USSR delegation for the Paris talks, in a conversation with the DAVAR correspondent. Arutyunov, who is in charge of the Soviet Bureau of Commerce in Paris, added that "there are no obstacles on the way to implementing the agreements we have reached."

Agriculture and technology are the main areas in which the USSR is interested in economic cooperation with Israel. "Agriculture is our number 1 problem," the Soviet official said, "while you in Israel have managed to turn the desert into a lush garden. We need your experience. The Israelis promised to present us with concrete projects, and we promise to examine all of them favorably. We believe that economic and political ties should be kept apart, although the policy of perestroyka also includes the need to improve relations with Israel."

"We enjoy the support of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, and we have been promised that the Israeli and the USSR consular delegations will be authorized to grant visas to businessmen. A direct link between businessmen is the first step toward rapprochement," the Soviet representative said. Answering a question on the actual limitations of trade with the USSR, such as means of payment, the Soviet official said that he has high hopes concerning the expected Supreme Soviet resolutions on a general liberalization that would include the law on private property.

"We are facing a fundamental reconstruction of our economy. We found the Israeli businessmen very understanding in this regard," Arutyunov said. [passage omitted]

HAMAS Islamic Resistance Movement Outlawed

TA2809152489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] HAMAS, the Islamic resistance movement, has been outlawed in the territories and in Israel according to a recent decision adopted by the defense establishment. Henceforth, any person who continues to be a member of HAMAS, act on its behalf, or attend a rally of the movement, wi' be arrested and tried.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe points out that HAMAS is the main Islamic movement in the territories and East Jerusalem. HAMAS is the violent arm of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, and has been operating under various names.

Defense sources say that HAMAS' influence exceeds that of all other Islamic movements in the territories. The movement began operating in the territories only after the outbreak of the intifadah. It took part in the staging of riots, called for general strikes, and participated in hostile terrorist activities. At this point, there is concrete knowledge about some HAMAS members who took part in terror attacks, planted explosives, threw firebombs, and murdered local inhabitants who deviated from the principles of Islam or were suspected of collaborating with Israel. Their involvement in other murders is also being investigated.

Goren Comments

TA2809165589 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by Dan Margalit—live in the studio]

[Text] [Margalit] HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] aroused the anger of the defense establishment, and was outlawed a short time ago. Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories, good evening.

[Goren] Good evening.

[Margalit] Why has HAMAS been outlawed?

[Goren] First of all, it should be clear that we are not conducting a struggle against the Islamic religion, or even against the Muslim Brotherhood movement as such. HAMAS is a movement of religious characteristics, a very radical and militant organization that uses extremely ruthless methods whose raison d'etre is not only to wage a violent struggle against the State of Israel, but also against Judaism and Zionism.

[Margalit] Is this struggle being conducted through preaching and agitation, or does it also take the form of violent action?

[Goren] It involves more than just preaching and agitation, or the use of mosques and Islamic religious artifacts. What we are talking about are violent activities characterized by ruthless deeds, including dozens of cases of participation in violent actions, whether in the framework of the strike committees or other groups set up to carry out acts of violence, as well as the use of weapons, both conventional and nonconventional—and we have lots of evidence to this effect.

[Margalit] In other words, HAMAS actually took part in the assassination of Palestinians collaborating with the Israeli authorities. Did it also participate in terror attacks inside Israel, or against Jews in the territories?

[Goren] Not only did it participate in such actions, but it compelled every Muslim to wage jihad, or holy war; it terrorized and intimidated the Muslim population in the territories as well as Christians, as was the case recently in Bayt Sahur.

[Margalit] Were the perpetrators of the two recent attacks on buses driving from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem also influenced by HAMAS?

[Goren] There is no doubt that HAMAS also has an influence on non-members.

[Margalit] Would you say that HAMAS is more dangerous or hostile to Israel than the extreme organizations affiliated with the PLO?

[Goren] The moment the latter become radical and begin resorting to violence they will also be outlawed. Nevertheless, the evidence given in recent days by a leader of HAMAS will suffice. He specifically admitted not only to the existence of an apparatus for terror attacks, but also to direct participation in and approval of various actions, including attacks on collaborators.

[Margalit] Is this leader Ahmad Yasin from Gaza?

[Goren] Yes.

[Margalit] Assuming that HAMAS members took part in all those activities, does the announcement about the outlawing of the body mean anything to them? Will they stop being members? Will they stop carrying out acts of sabotage and terror? How will we benefit from the move? I also must make another point: You know that there will be a great hue and cry in the Western press over the fact that Israel bans groups that have actually been in existence for some time.

[Goren] I will start by responding to the second part of your question. We are not at all opposed to the existence of organizations and institutions that do not take part in violent activities, not even to those of which we do not approve. The moment they cross the red line, however, as HAMAS did, we must take action. We have been holding intense talks and contacts with clerics, among others. They complained and requested action on our part because they are also subject to terror and intimidation.

[Margalit] Are you saying that if all that HAMAS had done was recite so-called satanic verses against the existence of the Jewish and Zionist state, or against Jews at large, we would not have outlawed it, that we only took this move because it moved on to violent activities?

[Goren] Its move to violent activities is one of the main reasons. One must understand that we also have a legal difficulty in fighting such a movement operating clandestinely out of mosques, and taking advantage of them—sometimes through terror—against the will of imams and other clergymen. Herein lies our difficulty. The fact that the movement has been outlawed will make it easier for the defense establishment to fight them.

[Margalit] I suppose the move will arouse a certain degree of criticism in the West, but in actual fact a large number of the HAMAS leaders are being held in custody in prisons and detention camps.

[Goren] I am not sure that it will arouse criticism, we should wait and see. We must remember that this is a relatively new movement. It has been operating for less than 2 years, I believe. As long as it did not engage in violent activities we took no action. The defense establishment had to overcome some obstacles, and it took time before the evidence was collected; incidentally, it has done an exceptional job. The moment HAMAS stepped out of line and moved to violence we had no choice but to take action against it. Things became easier the moment we removed the legal difficulties I mentioned earlier.

[Margalit] Shmu'el Goren, thank you very much.

Palestinians Plan To Accelerate Uprising

TA2809153089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni says that the Palestinian people will step up the intifadah [uprising]. Speaking to foreign journalists in Jerusalem, Al-Husayni said that many more people will participate in the uprising which will spread over a wider area, but firearms will not be used.

Our correspondent Shlomo Berger reports that with regard to the assassination of suspected collaborators with Israel, Al-Husayni said history shows no nation that has allowed collaborators to live in its midst.

Sari Nusaybah also said that the assassination of collaborators may be wrong, but history shows it to be—in his words—a normal deed.

Al-Husayni Comments on Homeland Inside Israel

TA2909054689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni says that if Israel will not accept a two-state solution, the Palestinians will start looking for a homeland inside Israel proper. Al-Husayni, who is considered the leading pro-PLO activist in the territories, was speaking to the foreign press association in Israel:

[Begin Al-Husayni recording] We believe that without solving of the Palestinian problem, there will be no peace, and without having a Palestinian state, there will be no peace. But if any solution will be here that will not concern the whole Palestinian people, and if the Palestinians outside will go on having the feeling that their problem was not solved and they have no homeland to go back to, so they will start search for a homeland. And if it will not be the Palestinian state, so for sure they will start to search an Arab place; and the only, the first place that they will look to will be Haifa, 'Akko, Yafo, Lod, and Ramla. [end recording]

Gaza Strip Closed for Jewish Holiday 29 Sep-2 Oct

TA2809152889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] The IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] spokesman announces that as of 1400 tomorrow until 0400 on Monday, 2 October, inhabitants of the Gaza Strip will not be allowed to enter Israel. Israeli citizens and their relatives will be allowed unlimited entry and exit. Journalists will be allowed entry pending coordination with the IDF spokesman.

IDF To Set Up West Bank Detention Center

TA2809122389 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Sep 89 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The defense establishment has decided to set up another lockup on the West Bank, which will be the responsibility of the Central Command and will be professionally supervised by the Military Police.

Senior commanders will tour the West Bank next week to locate a suitable site for the detention center, which is supposed to house thousands of detainees. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have simultaneously decided to extend the Qezi'ot—Ansar 2—detention center and adapt it to absorb another 2,000 detainees. The decision to extend detention facilities is due to the possible apprehension of several thousand Palestinians wanted by the authorities for belonging to the hard nucleus of the uprising in the territories. There is also an assumption that if elections take place in the territories, it will be necessary to prepare for disturbances, especially by members of the rejectionist front.

Meridor Receives Egypt Envoy in E. Jerusalem

TA2709110489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni met Justice Minister Dan Meridor in his office on Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem yesterday. Others, such as the U.S., FRG, and Spanish ambassadors, have refused to meet the justice minister in his office because it is in East Jerusalem.

Basyuni initiated the meeting to explain to Meridor—who is considered the minister closest to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir—the essence of President Mubarak's 10-point initiative and his plan to arrange a meeting for preliminary talks on the election processes in the territories between an Israeli delegation and a Palestinian delegation that will include two deportees.

Meridor explained to Basyuni that Israel adheres to the peace initiative endorsed by the Cabinet on 14 May and affirmed that Israel would not accept the inclusion of deportees or other exiled Palestinians.

Arab Envoys at UN Telephoned; Iraq Hangs Up

TA2909055189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] The Israeli delegation at the United Nations has established phone contact with the 20 representatives of Arab states at the world body, and invited them to meet with Foreign Minister Arens on ending the state of war.

Some countries are said to have considered the move a bluff on Israel's part, though according to a Voice of Israel reporter in New York, only one office—Iraq—hung up on the Israelis.

1 Killed, 1 Wounded, 14 Arrested in Nabulus Area

TA2809184589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] A 22-year-old inhabitant of Nabulus was killed today. Our correspondent in the territories 'Ido Shargil reports that an Army lookout post and patrol in downtown Nabulus were attacked this afternoon by masked men. The assailants threw stones and bottles of acid at the soldiers. The latter opened fire, seriously wounding one of the assailants who was taken to Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tiqva. Later, the hospital in Nabulus received a report about another fatality.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT at 28 September reports that the "Army today arrested 14 inhabitants of the village of Qarawat Bani Zayd in the Nabulus area. Some of them had been sought by the security forces for participating in riots and subversive activities. The Army operated in the village today with the help of helicopters."]

15 Detained for 'Hostile Activity' on Green Line

TA2809120189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Report by Yo'el Dar]

[Excerpts] For the second time since last Friday, police raided East Barta'a, a Wadi 'Ara village, in a quest to apprehend residents suspected of hostile activity. Unlike the first time, however, the security forces were able to detain a large number of suspects and confiscate leaflets and publications, as well as maps and binoculars not used by innocent schoolchildren out on a nature hike. [In a similar report, Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 on 28 September gives the number of Barta'a residents arrested as 15.] The success of the policemen, who were assisted by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], can be partly attributed to the element of surprise. [passage omitted]

The raid, which started in the early morning hours and ended at noon, signaled to East Barta'a residents, as well

as other villages situated on the 1949 truce lines, that the IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] and the police intend to continue cooperating in order to prevent rioters from carrying out acts of terror inside Israel and from fleeing beyond the Green Line after the act. [passage omitted]

Some of the detainees were handed over to the Army, while others will stand trial in courts in the north for hostile activity in the service of the intifadah [uprising].

Update on 27 Sep Incidents in Territories

TA2809103789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Sep 89 p 2

[Report by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Palestinian sources reported that eight local youths were wounded in violent clashes with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the West Bank yesterday. Two men were wounded by live ammunition in the Balatah refugee camp. In Nabulus an 18-year-old youth was shot in the thigh. The three youths from Balatah and the Nabulus youth were hospitalized in Al-Ittihad hospital, which reported the admission of a 19-year-old youth wounded in the Al-Fari'ah refugee camp. It was further reported that a youth from Qalqilyah was also wounded by gunfire, and that two others were wounded in clashes with the Army in Hebron yesterday. [passage omitted]

A new phenomenon was noted in Nabulus: Yesterday seven young masked females distributed leaflets of the United Women's Council calling on women of the city to participate in the activities of local committees, in guard duties, lookout posts, and in preventing detentions of youths.

Clashes with soldiers and stone-throwing incidents occurred in Janin yesterday as well. The Army ordered all the stores in Janin closed yesterday morning as a preemptive, deterrent, and punitive measure. One youth was slightly wounded by gunfire. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, four women from the village of Dayr 'Ammar were deported to Jordan via the Allenby Bridge after their permits to stay expired. One of the deportees is a mother of three.

The security forces yesterday demolished two houses in the village of Biddiya near Nabulus, claiming they were built without permit. [passage omitted]

Eight residents of Gaza refugee camps were wounded during riots yesterday. Arab sources further reported that a partial business strike was staged, and that very few workers left for work in Israel. [passage omitted]

The IDF spokesman for the Southern Command reported that apart from local incidents, the Gaza Strip was relatively quiet yesterday. He further reported that the curfew imposed yesterday on the Tall al-Sultan neighborhood of Gaza was lifted.

As'ad al-Saftawi was recently nominated as arbitrator in various disputes over financial and other legal matters between families in the southern sector of the Gaza Strip. He said that he accepted the duty due to the lack of civil courts and police in the refugee camps, and on the condition that his ruling would be accepted by both parties to a dispute. So far there has been no such arbitrator in the Gaza Strip.

Palestine Press Service Closure Extended 6 Months

JN2809140689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Israel extended today the closure of the Palestine Press Service in Jerusalem for another 6 months. The Palestine Press Service was expected to be reopened today. Mrs Raymonda al-Tawil, the founder of the press service, who is now in the French capital, informed us of this.

Unprecedented Tel Aviv-Syria Telephone Link

TA2909054389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] A direct telephone link was established between Tel Aviv and a Syrian city yesterday for the first time since Israel gained independence in 1948. An Israeli of Syrian origin spoke with his 75-year-old mother over the telephone.

Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that the connection was set up through an Israeli communications company which operates an international communications network in London. Up to now this service has only been used by Arab residents of the territories.

Population Increases by 1.6 Percent in 1989

TA2809133789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] On the eve of the [Jewish] New Year, it was officially announced that Israel's population is 4.53 million. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein points out that this is a 1.6 percent increase over the previous year.

According to data published by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Jews comprise 81.6 percent of Israel's population. For the first time in Israel's history the number of births exceeded 100,000. Some 17,000 new immigrants arrived in Israel this year, 30 percent more than last year.

Ibrahimi Meets Sham'un, Expresses Satisfaction

NC2809110989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi today held what he described as a cordial and constructive meeting with National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un. [passage omitted]

[Begin Ibrahimi recording] The meeting was cordial and was part of the efforts to implement the current plan. This plan has two parts. The security aspect involves the cease-fire, the lifting of sieges, the opening of the airport, and related issues. Progress here has been satisfactory despite certain snags, which we hope to clear up so that calm and normalcy will return.

The second aspect involves consultations with the brothers here to arrange their attendance at a meeting abroad and to agree on the venue of that meeting. I am pleased that this phase also has been satisfactorily completed and that everyone has agreed to take part in the next step. I believe that a new phase will begin in al-Ta'if and that its outcome will be satisfactory.

My meeting with Dany Sham'un and his colleagues was, as usual, constructive and cordial. We discussed ways to help each other achieve our common goals: to save this country, end the suffering of the people, terminate the crisis, restore harmony and accord among the Lebanese, and establish an independent, strong, and unified Lebanon. [end recording]

For his part, Sham'un said he is willing to cooperate with Ibrahimi in order to bring success to his difficult mission.

Ibrahimi, Deputies Leave for Al-Ta'if Meeting

Envoy Heads to Saudi Arabia

NC2909090989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Arab committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi left for Saudi Arabia last night to particiate in the Lebanese deputies meeting which whill begin in al-Ta'if tomorrow.

East Beirut Deputies Depart

NC2909091389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Nine deputies from the eastern area of Beirut headed for Cyprus via military helicopter shortly before 1015. They will later leave for Saudi Arabia. The deputies are George Sa'adah, Habib Kayruz, Jubran Tawq, August Bakhus, Michel Sasin, Edward Hunayn, Pier Dakkash, 'Uthman al-Dana, and Subhi Yaghi.

Druze Group Meets, Rejects Committee Peace Plan

NC2809155689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The Bayt al-Din grouping held an extraordinary session at the Palace of the People in Bayt al-Din this morning under the chairmanship of Druze spiritual leader His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Shaqra. The meeting was attended by Progressive Socialist Partry leader Walid Junblatt. [passage omitted]

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr Fu'ad Dhibyan read the following statement: The Bayt al-Din grouping examined the draft document on national accord proposed by the Arab tripartite committee. The grouping believes that this plan does not fulfill the Lebanese people's goals and aspirations, which demand the complete abolition of political sectarianism at all political and administrative levels and the achievement of equality, justice, and equal opportunity for all citizens.

If a transitional period is necessary for the establishment of a nonsectarian system, the Bayt al-Din grouping insists that a nonsectarian senate be created to work with the Chamber of Deputies so that balance and equality can prevail in a discussion of fateful issues and fundmental plans.

The grouping believes that further administrative decentralization is necessary to achieve justice in the devastated areas, to secure social integration, and to rebuild the army so that it becomes an army for all Lebanese and defends Lebanon's borders against Israel.

The statement concluded: The Bayt al-Din grouping thanks the Arab tripartite committee and its representative Lakhdar Ibrahimi for the achievements that have been made on the security level. The grouping also urges the Arab committee to pursue its mission to expedite the achievement of a just political settlement to the Lebanese crisis.

In a statement, Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Shaqra noted that the meeting was held in light of current developments and the efforts to reach a solution. It was necessary to hold this extraordinary meeting to examine the situation, he added.

Abu-Shaqra disclosed: We agreed on a plan to be taken to al-Ta'if by Deputy Shaykh Tawfiq 'Assaf on behalf of this grouping. However, he refused to provide any further details on the plan, adding that it will be made public after it is presented to the al-Ta'if meeting.

For his part, Deputy 'Assaf said: This meeting took place before I leave to attend the deputies meeting in Saudi Arabia. We discussed the national accord document and exchanged views on a host of issues which must be discussed at the forthcoming meeting. Our goal is to restore unity, sovereignty, and independence to Lebanon and to establish an independent sovereign state where all

citizens will be equal. I will take these proposals and views to the al-Ta'if meeting and I hope we achieve the desired accord.

Answering a question, he said: We believe that reform should precede everything else because reform is the basic goal.

Statements Made by 'Awn 'Concern' Al-Huss

NC2809105689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has expressed concern over statements made by General Michel 'Awn. In an interview with REUTER, al-Huss said: 'Awn says that there can be no dialogue under what he terms an occupation and that reforms cannot take place before what he calls the liberation. Al-Huss asked: Can he explain how he can repeatedly claim to support the Casablanca summit resolution when he knows that this resolution clearly stipulates that a dialogue to agree on reforms be held before a president is elected?

Prime Minister al-Huss added: How can Gen 'Awn's statements be taken seriously if he keeps contradicting himself? Al-Huss said the Lebanese people are in trouble if their fate is in the hands of a person who has no interest in a solution to their crisis.

Army Must Be Reunified Before Syrians Pull Out

NC2809135789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] In a statement carried by AFP this afternoon, Dr al-Huss asserted a Syrian withdrawal could only be requested by legitimate Lebanon; that is, after a president of the republic is elected and a national unity government is formed.

Al-Huss said even a redeployment of the Syrian forces cannot be discussed before the Lebanese army is reunified in a manner that will allow this army to maintain security.

Al-Huss Defends Syrian Role, Urges Election

PM2809092189 Madrid ABC in Spanish 18 Sep 89 p 28

[Interview with Lebanese acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss by Ramon Perez-Maura in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Introductory passage omitted] [Perez-Maura] How do you believe the agreement on your country reached at the nonaligned countries' summit in Belgrade will affect Lebanon's future?

[Al-Huss] We raise no objection to the nonaligned summit's agreement on Lebanon. In fact, we did not expect more; but the fundamental solution for Lebanon, as was reflected in their document, depends on the outcome of the Arab troika's proposals once its activities resume. We are seeking a solution through the Arab countries.

[Perez-Maura] You say that you expected no more of that resolution. Should it not also mention Syria, and not just Israel, as one of the countries which should leave Lebanon?

[Al-Huss] No. There is a world of difference between the two cases. The Israelis are an occupation force, and there is an 11-year-old UN Security Council resolution calling on them to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Lebanese territory. The occupation still continues.

The Syrian forces came into Lebanon for the first time at the established, lawful government's invitation in June 1976. This decision was backed by the Arab League. Every 6 months, the president asked the league to extend the mandate. The situation remained unchanged until the Israelis invaded Lebanon in 1982. Then the Syrians withdrew from certain areas. In 1987, the official authorities again called on the Syrians to deploy in areas which they had left. At that time we were seeing clashes between the armed militias in Beirut almost daily. The prime minister at that time, Rashid Karami, went to Damascus with several ministers, including myself, and asked the Syrians to return to Beirut in order to stop the clashes. Because of all this, I would say that the Syrians will leave Lebanon when the official authorities ask them.

[Perez-Maura] If you deem yourself the official government, why do you not ask them?

[Al-Huss] That decision will have to be made by a cabinet meeting of the united government. Right now, unfortunately, the country is divided. There are two rival authorities. General 'Awn claims to be the head of the lawful government, and I also claim to be so. In a confrontation situation like this, nobody has the right to make the decision to ask the Syrians to withdraw. The Syrians will withdraw, but a reunified Lebanese army must take their place.

[Perez-Maura] But in East Beirut order is being maintained perfectly, while here the Syrian Army is needed to maintain it. If the Syrian forces were to withdraw, would you be able to control the situation just as Gen 'Awn does?

[Al-Huss] We are in no position to do so. The army was not equipped equally well in all the regions of Lebanon. In fact, the best weapons and the majority of them were at General Staff headquarters, which was in the area controlled by Gen 'Awn. There is a great difference between how the army is equipped there and how it is equipped here. A unified army with a single commander in chief is needed, and the distinction between East and West Beirut should disappear.

[Perez-Maura] On what grounds would you be prepared to sit down and discuss your government's reunification with Gen 'Awn?

[Al-Huss] I will not sit down with Gen 'Awn in order to reunify the governments. No, that is not the way. The natural way to reunify the government would be to elect a new president, who would then conduct the usual consultations with parliament and propose a new prime minister, who would form a new government. With a new government, the two currently existing rival governments would disappear.

[Perez-Maura] Do you not find it rather unrealistic, with two opposing governments, to set about electing a new president in the country?

[Al-Huss] Not at all. There should be an agreement for parliament to meet and elect the new president. Once he has been elected, he can conduct his own consultations to find a new prime minister. There is a split in the executive but not in the legislative power. Of course, this would presuppose some kind of agreement among the Lebanese people. To achieve this we need Arab assistance. We have a tripartite committee, appointed by the Casablanca summit. Once the security problems which we are facing now have been surmounted, it will concentrate on the political aspect with the aim of achieving an agreement among the Lebanese people on their country's necessarily reformist future profile.

Arab Troika's Role

[Perez-Maura] The Arab tripartite committee, which resumed its work last week, has already failed once. Do you have greater hopes of its success now?

[Al-Huss] Yes. We have high hopes that it will be able to carry out its mandate. But to say that it has already failed once... In the initial stage of its work it encountered certain obstacles. The world should realize that we are talking about the future of a country and a people, so that, however often we fail, we must continue to seek a solution.

[Perez-Maura] How could the U.S. ambassador's withdrawal affect Lebanon's future?

[Al-Huss] Lebanon's future should be left primarily to the Lebanese people, but we are anxious to see that our relations with all countries in the world are good. We were very sorry to learn of the Americans' withdrawal, because we would like to see everybody who can help us helping us. Ambassador McCarthy had difficulties in seeing me. I have not seen him for several months. He had instructions from his government not to come to West Beirut for security reasons.

[Perez-Maura] It seems increasingly likely that northern Sunnis are joining Gen 'Awn's troops. What would you say to your brothers in faith?

[Al-Huss] I tell you that that is an utter lie.

[Perez-Maura] From your tone, you seem to deny the possibility of Sunnis fighting on Gen 'Awn's side...

[Al-Huss] I do not know about that, but there are very many Christians on our side!... I did not speak of Muslims and Christians; you did. Let us take care not to present this as a war between Moors and Christians.

[Perez-Maura] It is rumored in Beirut that you and your government are hostages of the Syrians...

[Al-Huss] That is an insult to us. We are a government, and I act as my free will dictates.

[Perez-Maura] Do you believe that your government could survive without Syria's assistance?

[Al-Huss] I believe that that is an irrelevant question. My authority derives from the Constitution.

Beirut Market Areas Come Under Machinegun Fire

NC2909074789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] We have just been informed that the market areas [in Beirut] have been subjected to bursts of medium-caliber machinegun fire since 0930 today.

Meanwhile, security sources have indicated that contrary to previous reports, the security committee is not expected to meet today.

Group Claims 5 Syrians Wounded in Attack

NC2909091489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced that one of its groups fired at a position belonging to the Syrian occupation army near the quarters of Colonel 'Ali Hawr on al-Arz Street in al-Qubbah at 2230 last night.

According to the organization, the group engaged the Syrian troops for 15 minutes, during which the Syrians used machineguns. Five Syrian soldiers were wounded in the clash.

Al-Shar' Meets Foreign Ministers in New York

Confers With Velayati

JN2709214289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins this morning. During the meeting, discussions revolved around bilateral relations and means to promote them in various fields. The two sides discussed the situation in the region, particularly efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

The foreign minister also met with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'ullah al-Fattal. During the meeting, the two ministers reviewed the topics that were discussed between the Syrian and Iranians sides in Tehran. They also discussed topics in the agenda of the UN General Assembly.

Al-Shar' also met with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez. Talks revolved around bilateral relations and the situation in Lebanon in light of the Lebanese parties' approval of the Arab tripartite committee's plan to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

Meets Venezuelan Minister

JN2809152889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] New York—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met yesterday with Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'ullah al-Fattal. During the meeting, the discussion centered on the international situation, consolidation of the role of the Nonaligned Movement in the international arena, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis. Rao voiced the Indian Government's appreciation for the role played by Syria to help Lebanon out of its crisis and restore peace there.

Al-Shar' then met with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueroa. Their meeting concerned promoting relations between Syria and Venezuela, the situation in Lebanon, and the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee to solve the Lebanese crisis in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolutions on Lebanon. Figueroa expressed the Venezuelan Government's appreciation of Syria's role and assistance to Lebanon to safeguard its unity and independence and to realize national accord among its sons.

Italian Relations Discussed

JN2909061889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday met with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, who conveyed the greetings of Italian Prime Minister Francesco Cossiga to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Conversation during the meeting revolved around Syrian-Italian relations and the situation in the region, particularly the efforts exerted to resolve the Lebanese crisis by implementing the Casablanca summit resolution.

Al-Shar' then met with Algerian Foreign Minister (Mohamed Ghazali). The meeting dealt with the efforts made by the Arab tripartite committee to implement the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon, and the meeting scheduled to be held by members of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies in al-Ta'if.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also met with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, who conveyed the greetings and best wishes of Austrian President Dr Kurt Waldheim to President Hafiz al-Asad.

The meeting dealt with Syrian-Austrian relations and means to develop them in all fields. The meeting also dealt with the situation in the region, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict and the efforts made to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

Alois Mock voiced the Austrian Government's appreciation of the role played by Syria in helping Lebanon to achieve national reconciliation among its sons.

Al-Shar' also met with GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer.

During the meeting the conversation revolved around the ties of friendship and cooperation existing between Syria and the GDR and means to develop them in all fields. The conversation also dealt with the international situation, particularly in Europe and in the region; the Arab-Israeli conflict; and the efforts exerted to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

Commentary Urges Political Reform in Lebanon

JN2809145289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Nationalist and Islamic Lebanese forces have reaffirmed their absolute support for the security plan and all its articles. They have shown full readiness to facilitate the mission of the Arab tripartite committee and calm the situation to enable the committee to resume its political activity. Although the nationalist and Islamic forces have expressed reservations about the national accord document—because it does not meet the minimum demands of the Lebanese people and does not completely and finally abolish the political sectarianism which is responsible for all the plagues and disasters that have afflicted the Lebanese—the isolationist cliques in the eastern part [of Beirut] have begun a series of maneuvers to rid the document of meaning. These maneuvers also are intended to curtail the powers of the

Chamber of Deputies, which has been called to meet in Saudi Arabia to discuss and approve the document.

Once again, the known isolationists are demanding liberation before reforms. For them, liberation means destroying the will of the Lebanese people and strangling their nationalist voice in order to set the clock back and reject reforms. Pressure is being put on the deputies in the eastern part to make them do what they are told and refrain from taking part in the debates in Saudi Arabia over the reform document. They are under pressure to accept the election of a president of the republic without taking part in the discussion on reforms. This is designed to undermine all the Lebanese people's heavy sacrifices for freedom, equality, and justice and for the sake of a homeland committed to Arabism and organic relations with the Arab community.

The al-Yarzah general [Michel 'Awn] has rejected the reform document, even though the document offers the Lebanese only a fraction of their demands and ignores the abolition of political sectarianism, which is a basic demand.

Strengthening security in fraternal Lebanon is certainly an important demand. It has been received with great satisfaction by the citizens who have returned to their homes and resumed the process of reconstruction, expecting good results from the efforts of the Arab committee, especially since the entire international community has supported the Arab efforts to end the Lebanese crisis and has reaffirmed the need for political reforms as a means of salvation. Everyone in the world now believes that political reforms are urgently needed and that the Lebanese crisis will get worse if no large-scale reform program is implemented to make basic changes in the Lebanese system.

It is unreasonable in the 20th century that justice and equality do not prevail among the sons of the same people, that a minority controls the the majority, and that armed militias continue to impose their will by force on the Lebanese citizens in the eastern part. The residents of East Beirut, who have been plagued with the destructive war like their brothers in West Beirut, are yearning for salvation from destruction, death, and killing, and daily reaffirm their support for a unified Lebanon with effective relations with its Arab family.

From this perspective, political reforms constitute a lifeline for all Lebanese and their entire homeland. Placing obstacles in the way of the meeting of the Chamber of Deputies and against the endorsement of the reform document means, in practice, threatening the security process and means a continuation of the partitionist plot against Lebanon, its people, and its institutions. This is the gesture and purpose behind 'Awn's rejection of the national accord document.

Commentary on 'Zionist Ambitions' in Lebanon

JN2709215289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Hopes are now being pinned on the possibility of silencing the guns in Lebanon and resorting to reason and wisdom. So, it is necessary to recall that mines are scattered along the road to the political solution and that there is a need to work to defuse them. The most serious of these mines is the Israeli presence in Lebanon.

In this regard, the fact, which is known to everyone and must not be discarded, remains that Israel has exploited the contradictions of the rotten sectarian system to undermine the situation. It must also be remembered that the Zionists have continued to add fuel to the Lebanese fire and increase the feelings of rancor and rivalry among the Lebanese. This, however, is natural. The designs of the Zionist entity on the Lebanese land are old. It has sought to employ this Arab country to peddle the Zionist prescription based on splitting the Arab homeland into fragile sectarian entities deprived of their will and decisionmaking.

The Zionists have set fire to Lebanon to preoccupy the Arabs, distract their attention from struggling against the Zionist occupation, make them forget the Israeli aggression against the Arab nation, and increase differences among the Arabs. Furthermore, Israel has sought to prolong the Lebanese crisis to drain the capabilities of Syria—the basic power confronting the Zionist ambitions—and weaken its regional and international position. In brief, the Zionists have aggravated the Lebanese crisis to swallow Lebanon and undermine the Arab stand which is hostile to Israel.

It is worthwhile to note that the aforementioned Israeli objectives are not over yet. Consequently, Israel is interested in keeping Lebanon weak, fragmented, and ablaze since calm, stability, and rescuing this country are entirely contrary to the Zionist strategy of expansion in the region. Because solving the Lebanese crisis contradicts Zionist interests, we must expect Israel to carry out whatever is needed to hamper the solution process in Lebanon. Therefore, the Israeli role in Lebanon must be monitored, neutralized, and uprooted. This is a basic requirement needed to salvage Lebanon and end its crisis.

By the way, the containing of the Zionist scheme in Lebanon requires first and foremost putting an end to the illusions harbored within the heads of some Lebanese people concerning the advantage of dealing with Israel and relying on its power. The Lebanese have realized before others the fatal dangers linked to such an orientation.

Those who thought that the Israeli entity will guarantee their security, continuation, and privileges will harvest nothing but disappointment, tragedies, and destruction.

Those who believed they can use Israel to serve their interests have, in the long run, become mere small agents who are manipulated by Zionism in any way it wants and in a manner which serves its interests. Therefore, purging the heads of some of the Lebanese from dangerous concepts on the advantage of dealing with Israel would provide an appropriate precursor to promoting the peace process and removing the Zionist intrigues.

The other danger threatening the accord and solution process in Lebanon is found in the conspiratorial role the Iraqi regime plays on the Lebanese arena. Indeed, the Lebanese have tangibly realized that their ordeals have been multiplied tens of times since the moment Saddam began interfering in Lebanon's affairs. This interference sparked a grinding civil war for which Lebanon paid a dear price, aggravated all Lebanon's problems, and blew up the possibility of the national accord and the political solution. This was natural, however, since the Iraqi regime has sought to achieve two objectives in Lebanon. First, settling its accounts with Syria's pan-Arab and steadfast position through Lebanon. Second, drowning Lebanon in blood, gunsmoke, and destruction to distract the Arabs' attention from the conflict with Zionism—the same objective which this regime has taken upon itself to accomplish when it waged its crazy war against the Iranian revolution.

Thus, the liquidation of the remnants of Saddam's conspiracy in Lebanon represents one of the basic guarantees to protect and consolidate the accord and solution process and bring it to a happy ending. This is because the Iraqi regime—as has been proved by the events over the last 6 months in Lebanon—coincided completely with Israel's interest, which is based on prolonging the tragedy, preventing a solution, and aggravating the conflict.

The solution process, which we hope has started in Lebanon, is still fresh and needs to be armed with national awareness and a high degree of responsibility to consolidate it and keep it alive. This process also needs immediate action to dismantle the mines dispersed along the road to ending the crisis. As long as these mines remain, the dangers will continue to threaten any attempt to salvage Lebanon.

Afghanistan

BAKHTAR Welcomes Soviet-U.S. Communique

LD2809182389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Statement by BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY:

A joint communique was released at the end of talks between Eduard Shevardnadze, foreign minister of the Soviet Union, and James Baker, U.S. secretary of state. After assessing these talks and the agreements reached, the communique notes that they agreed that a peaceful solution to the Afghan issue should be based on national reconciliation, ensuring Afghanistan's position as a peaceful, independent, and nonaligned country.

The Republic of Afghanistan welcomes the principled position of and the agreements reached at these talks. The communique states that the leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan, ever since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, which has wide support among the Afghan people and all the peace-loving people of the world, have chosen peaceful means to resolve the issue of Afghanistan, end war and bloodshed, and achieve peace in this country. Having taken many measures and presented peaceful proposals, the leaders have always stressed and will continue to stress the need for a solution through the implemention of the national reconciliation policy and by peaceful means.

The new proposals and drafts offered by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, to government leaders and member countries at the 9th session of the Nonaligned Movement held in Belgrade, which were presented and based on a peaceful solution of the issue of Afghanistan with broad and obvious dimensions, are the manifestation of another principled step in this regard in which emphasis has been made once again on the [word indistinct] by a peaceful solution.

The Republic of Afghanistan expresses its full support once again for the agreement noted in the joint communique of the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States concerning the peaceful solution of the issue of Afghanistan. It considers it a new impetus for a peaceful solution of the issue of Afghanistan. By fully supporting it, Afghanistan states that the present agreement reached during talks between the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States conforms with the peaceful proposals and drafts of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan expresses the hope that such international efforts will create possibilities for the settlement of the issue of Afghanistan by peaceful means, and that such efforts will contribute to the peace and stability of the region and the world.

Keshtmand Receives Pakistani Delegation

LD2809211589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, met this afternoon with the Pakistani delegation led by (Alia Emmam), cultural adviser to Begum Nusrat Bhutto, at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers.

According to another report, Dr Basir Ranjbar, chairman of the Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Society of the Republic of Afghanistan, met this afternoon with the Pakistani delegation which is made up of (Alia Emmam), cultural adviser to Begum Nusrat Bhutto; her husband; 'Abdul Malik, deputy secretary general of Pakistan's [words indistinct]; and (Eshpaq Ahmad), former ambassador of Pakistan to Vietnam. The delegation has come to Kabul at the invitation of the Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Society of the Republic of Afghanistan. During the meeting talks were held on topics of mutual interest.

The delegation also met this afternoon with Sayyed Akram Paygir, minister of returnees' affairs.

96 Kabul Soldiers Defect to Mujahidin in Ghazni

BK2909023889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, 96 soldiers of a Kabul regime militia contingent defected to the mujahidin along with their commander during their offensive on (Salil Khalil) in Ghazni Province. Reports say that during the offensive, the mujahidin captured (Haribi) and (Bara) posts.

Another report states that despite the Kabul regime's air and ground attacks around the Jalalabad-Sarowbi highway, the mujahidin are maintaining their control there. The mujahidin attacked a military post in western Darunta, seizing a large quantity of ammunition. Kabul regime soldiers retreated without putting up any resistance.

Rebels Foil Attack on Salang Highway in Parvan

BK2909102089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have foiled a recent attack by the Kabul regime on the Salang highway north of Charikar, the headquarters of Parvan Province. The military units of the Kabul regime fled, leaving behind the wreckage of four tanks and seven other vehicles. Twenty-eight Kabul regime soldiers and their commander were killed and dozens of other soldiers were wounded in the fighting.

India

U.S.-Soviet Arms Reduction Accords Welcomed

BK2809114789 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Commentary by V.S. Maniam of THE STATESMAN: "U.S.-Soviet Agreement on Weapons"]

[Text] There has been unquestionably a breakthrough in the talks between the American secretary of state, Mr James Baker, and the Soviet Union foreign minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, on nuclear-weapon-free world. It has created the very real prospect of the two superpowers concluding at an early date a strategic arms reduction treaty for slashing their strategic nuclear stockpiles by as much as 50 percent.

This was made possible by Mr Shevardnadze's announcement that his country has dropped its earlier insistence that an agreement on drastically reducing the number of long-range nuclear bombers, missiles, and nuclear submarines could be reached only after the hammering [out] of a treaty to limit space-based defenses, described in popular parlance as the Star Wars system and called by experts as Strategic Defense Initiative, the SDI. That insistence or linkage had so far stalled the prospect of an agreement on strategic arms limitation, since the United States quite plainly refused to yield to the Soviet demand for trimming down the American defense in space program.

The Soviet Union has become ready to sign a strategic arms treaty for cutting all long-range nuclear weapons by 50 percent, even if there is no agreement on Star Wars, so long as both sides still observe the anti-ballistic missile treaty signed in 1972. The Soviet Union even agreed to dismantle the Krasnoyarsk radar facility in Siberia, which was considered by America as a violation of the anti-ballistic missile treaty.

There were several other related agreements signed last week. One is an umbrella agreement in principle that there should be verification of each other's missile plants and stockpiles of long-range nuclear weapons, as well as of information exchange, even before a treaty to slash the weapons is completed. The second is for advance notification by one side to the other of any planned military exercises involving long-range bombers and other strategic weapons. The third stipulates a ceiling of 10 launchers carrying intercontinental ballistic missiles at any one (?base) and monitoring of some of the launchers. The fourth agreement brings the world closer to a ban on chemical weapons, stipulates exchange of data on chemical weapons and inspection of stockpiles and plants of each other, besides intensive on-site inspection of the submitted data in the second phase of such inspection. A fifth significant accord reached was of the two superpowers cooperating to enhance the power of the International Court of Justice to settle disputes. There will also be a detailed framework for monitoring underground nuclear tests. Thereby American and Soviet officials would be allowed to inspect each other's nuclear test sites.

The relationship between the two superpowers to which these accords bear witness are bound to lead to even bolder and unprecedented steps toward what was described graphically as dismantling the nuclear death.

India, in particular, is immeasurably happy over the Wyoming accords and the further agreements these are bound to lead to, since this country has been in the vanguard of nations campaigning tirelessly to rid the world of the threat of a nuclear holocaust and build a nuclear-weapons-free world order. In a joint declaration issued at the end of Soviet leader Mr Gorbachev's visit to India in November 1986, Mr Gorbachev and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had specifically pleaded for a world agreement on complete destruction of nuclear arsenals before the end of this century. Based on that Delhi declaration, Mr Gandhi presented to the third special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament in June last year an action plan spelling out the concrete steps which could be taken to achieve the goals enshrined in the Delhi declaration. This is a most welcome development, for, as was emphasized in the Delhi declaration, disarmament alone can release the enormous additional resources needed for combating worldwide economic backwardness and poverty.

8 Killed, 50 Injured in Uttar Pradesh Violence

BK2909041989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, eight persons were killed and 50 injured in violent incidents in Badaun yesterday. According to official sources in Lucknow, the violence occurred when two groups of students took out processions. The mob indulged in heavy brickbatting and damaged a cinema hall and about 20 shops. The police had to resort to lathi [baton] charge and then firing in the air.

A curfew has been clamped in the entire city, including Kotwali and Civil Line police station areas. Police patrolling has been intensified. The situation is reported to be tense but under control. No incident has been reported from any part of the city after the imposition of the curfew.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Prayers Sermons

LD2909121689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] On the anniversary of the passing of the revered prophet of Islam, His Holiness Muhammad Ibn-'Abdallah, God's salutations and blessings be upon him and his kin, and the anniversary of the martyrdom of His Holiness Imam Hasan Mujtaba, peace be upon him, the mourning Muslim people of our country took part in the Friday prayers. The political-religious Friday prayers in

Tehran were held in the university and the adjoining streets and were attended by the Hezbollahi ummah under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his first sermon the president referred to some aspects of the fruitful life of the prophet of Islam, His Holiness Muhammad Ibn-'Abdallah, God's salutations and blessings be upon him and his kin, and Imam Hasan Mujtaba, peace be upon him; and in his second sermon he talked about the issues of the day.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani presented a brief report on the country's economic situation and the government's current policies. He said: In view of the fact that the enemy no longer has the capability of returning to a war situation, and that we were not the warmonger, the war-seeker, nor favored a continuation of the war, the possibility of a return to a war situation is remote.

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the country's defensive capability, the president said: Now that we are in a state of neither war nor peace, we will use some of our capablilities to strengthen the military, mainly in the field of weapons manufacture and military research. Now that the possibility of returning to war is very slight, we should try to implement the 5-year development plan.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to the country's high prices and inflation. Explaining the reasons for the high prices, he said: One of the reasons for high prices is the lack of adequate agricultural and industrial products. In order to eliminate this shortcoming, we should make full use of the capacities of our existing factories.

The president strongly criticized the system of distributing goods, saying: Wrong methods of distribution, imposed on us by the war, are not in keeping with the nature of our society. On the other hand, the uncontrolled use of capital in the hands of unsuitable and disreputable individuals puts pressure on the country's economy and on society, particularly the deprived and low-income groups.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that this difficulty will not be resolved without with the serious collaboration of all: the executive, the officials, and the people. In the near future, the Ministry of Commerce, in collaboration with the guilds, will implement the law of nongovernmental penalities, preparations for which have already been made.

Criticizing obstructive administrative regulations, the president expressed hope that administrative bureaucracy, especially the customs service, which hinders the people and the importers and exporters of goods, will be corrected through proper planning.

In conclusion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need to enable the people to take part in economic activities and for correct use of the people's capital. Some of the government's activities and facilities should be devoted to the reinvigoration and greater production of agricultural and other industries. Addressing the people, he said: You can be hopeful that, God willing, in 2-3 years' time, your country will be among those having a healthy economy, a healthy, independent, nonaligned, and self-reliant economy, capable of projecting itself to the world at large as an Islamic country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Chairs Antidrug Meeting

NC2909083989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Yesterday at the antidrug headquarters a meeting was convened under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. A plan was approved to set up representative offices in some foreign countries in order to monitor international problems related to narcotics. The successful trend in Iran's antinarcotics campaign and the greater reinforcement of controls along the country's eastern borders were reviewed at this session. It was decided that within the next two weeks, a special plan for comprehensive control of the eastern borders would be presented.

Necessary measures were taken to increase facilities for accommodating criminal addicts in work camps and for their rehabilitation.

KEYHAN Says 'Iraqi Spy' Executed 27 Sep

NC2809143789 Paris AFP in English 1302 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept 28 (AFP)—An Iraqi "spy" was executed in Iran on Wednesday for passing on information to Baghdad about industrial targets in Iran during the Gulf war, the leading KEYHAN newspaper reported Thursday.

Esma'il Kashtirani, a 35-year-old Iraqi, allegedly acted as a scout during the so-called "war of the cities" when the Gulf enemies fired missiles into one another's towns and cities. He was paid a monthly fee for informing Baghdad where the missiles fell, the paper said.

He was executed in Karaj, 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of Tehran, after an Islamic court there found him guilty of "supplying the enemy with important information about Iran's industrial and economic centers".

The Iraq-Iran war was halted in August 1988 by virtue of a UN cease-fire.

Ceremony Marks Kuwaitis' 'Martyrdom' in Mecca

LD2909092589 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—A ceremony commemorating the martydom of 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims in Mecca was held at the shrine of the late Imam Khomeyni in Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, Thursday.

A large number of people and high ranking officials attended the ceremony addressed by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami.

Some 16 Kuwait citizens were beheaded in public in Saudi Arabia recently on charges of bombing in Mecca during this year's hajj pilgrimage.

Khatami said the world was now facing two types of blasphemy: One was an unmasked kind with the U.S. at its helm and the other a masked one consisting of those governments masquerading as Muslim states such as Saudi Arabia.

The minister said "In today's world the U.S. is the cause of all corruption and all misfortunes of the globe.

"This (U.S.) Government is seeking to sow discord among Muslims through the Israeli regime on one hand and on the other by having occupied the Ka'bah through the Al Sa'ud is targetting the Allah's house, the center of Islamic movements."

He said the Saudi dynasty, as a symbol of American brand of Islam, could not tolerate to hear Muslims expressing antipathy towards unbelievers at the Allah's house. "The Al Sa'ud has committed such a crime in a bid to wage a psychological warfare against the Islamic Republic," the minister said. "The Saudi regime must give explanation on its crime to one billion Muslims."

A message from relatives of the 16 martyred Kuwaitis was read at the ceremony in which they condemned the silence of the Kuwaiti Government on the crime.

Earlier on Wednesday, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, Majlis Deputy from Tehran, addressing a similar memorial service said "These martyrs were killed on charges of being Shiite and fond of Islam." He also held the U.S. responsible for the crime.

Further on Ceremony

LD2809181289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Our correspondent reports about ceremonies staged in Behesht-e Zahra [cemetery] in commemoration of 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims to the house of God.

[Correspondent] On the occasion of the martyrdom of 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims by the Al Sa'ud family regime, and for the purpose of the selfless devotees on the last day of Holy Defense Week, this afternoon special commemorative ceremonies were held near the blessed tomb of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified.

In ceremonies staged for commemoration of Kuwaiti martyr pilgrims, which were arranged on the basis of an invitation made by Mr Karrubi, representative of the vali-e faqih and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims, the brother of one of the martyrs read out the message of families of the 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims, adding: The families of those martyrs and the Kuwaiti Muslims, who feel deep love for the Islamic revolution and the imam of the ummah, will not remain silent in the face of the atrocity of the dependent regime of Hejaz.

In the remainder of the ceremony, which was attended by the leadership's representative, a number of our country's religious and political personalities, a number of foreign and Iranian religious seminaries' students, and various strata of people, Mr Khatami, minister of culture and Islamic guidance, delivered a speech in which he depicted the United States and the so-called Islamic regimes, which are the agents of arrogance, as the two fronts of confrontation against the true path of Islam during recent decades. He added: In today's world, the regime of Al Sa'ud is the crystallization of American Islam, while the United States itself is the mother of corruption.

He stressed that the Islamic revolution revealed the true nature of American Islam, and in the course of the confrontation between the pure Mohammadan Islam and American Islam, it is the arrogant powers and their brand of Islam which will be destroyed. This is because the Islamic revolution is supported by millions of people who seek freedom.

Larijani Comments on U.S. Policy Toward Republic

NC2809195289 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 14 Sep 89 p 20

[Commentary by Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani: "U.S. and Iranian Foreign Policies"]

[Text] 1. The U.S. congressmen's letter on Iran has raised this question: Was this a rancorous and spiteful act and an outburst of hostility, or a general picture of U.S. policy on Iran?

How should the overall U.S. policy be understood? The answer to this lies in the responses to the following two questions: What is the most significant problem for the United States as far as Iran is concerned? What program is the United States pursuing in order to achieve its objective? Naturally, the answers to these questions can to a certain extent be found by observing the behavior of the Americans and regional developments.

2. The most significant problem of the United States as far as Iran is concerned is the fact that Iran is the torchbearer of an idea the repercussions of which have touched the entire world of Islam. The banal Americans call this idea "Islamic fundamentalism," and in using this definition they seek to convey a picture of bigotry and backwardness, not knowing that this very "label" they have applied is extremely positive for the movement. What better than the revival of the bright fundaments of Islamic thought? "Islamic fundamentalism" has, first and foremost, aimed at the roots of the political, economic, and cultural diktat of the Americans over Islamic countries. This is why it constitutes a serious threat to their "aggressive" interests. Thus, they have thought to themselves: We should do something to make

Iran give up this "inflammatory" idea. I think that this is what heads the list of American objectives in the region.

3. How can the flame of the revolution in Iran be extinguished? American politicans certainly want to draw from past experiences. They consider themselves to have been successful in Nicaragua, Angola, and Mozambique, where their policy was based on the consolidation of terrorist groups, on rendering borders and cities insecure, and, finally, on imposing pressures, thus leading to an "American rectification."

The theory of "American rectification" was also used against the Chinese revolution, in the Vietnam war, in Korea, in the Cuban revolution, in Libya, and in other instances. Sometimes it failed, and sometimes it was relatively successful.

We can say that America has tried its luck at extinguishing the revolution in Iran by different means. Let us not forget, however, that in politics the same chances can be taken over and over again!

4. If we consider that the theory of "American rectification" is now the basis of America's current behavior toward Iran, then we can make a forecast that they may attempt the following:

—They will try to see that the implementation of Resolution 598 goes at a very slow pace, without coming to a complete halt, so that peace is not established between Iran and Iraq.

—After a while, they will strive to create unrest on the Iran-Iraq borders, and the international observers forces have shown that they can be "asleep" if necessary!

—They will try to organize the [Iranian] counterrevolutionary forces in Iraq and hurl these forces at Iran's throat in an attempt to "debilitate" the country.

—America will try to harness Iraq on the one hand, and make it the dominating power in the region on the other. In the opinion of the Americans, "pestering" Iran under these conditions could foment another full-scale war; thus the only way to foil the insurgents' aggression would be to accept "rectification!"

If it were not for the heavy price paid by the regional nations, all of which are Muslim, then one would say: Let them try once again, because if Saddam's regime falls into this American trap, then it definitely will not be able to escape from it alive.

RESALAT Views Friendship With United States

NC2909111889 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Sep 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Leader's Imam-Like Uproar Against the United States"]

[Excerpts] If we consider yesterday to be the day when once again U.S. aspirations and hopes regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran took another mauling, we would not be far wrong.

Yesterday the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, this peerless helmsman of the vessel of the revolution, growled thunderously at the United States and once again declared the unswerving position of the revolution to those conceited ones ensconced in the ivory towers of the White House.

Three times in the past 8 months the vanity-stricken inmates of the White House were forced to revise their position against the nature of our revolution, but such a revision of positions did not conform with the truth about the revolution and therefore could not bring about any change in their comprehension of the revolution. [passage omitted]

First of all, let us examine the connotations of the terms friendship and animosity in imperialism's lexicon and how these terms can be interpreted regarding our situation. In this way the nature of American inclinations may become clear to us. The history of domination and in particular the concept of "neo-domination" makes it obvious that friendship in the imperialist lexicon means nothing more than "plunder" of economic resources and the destruction of minds and thoughts. [passage omitted]

In their lexicon animosity merely means rebellion and rising up against their desires and intentions. They place pressure on every country which refuses to conform with their wishes. It is clear, therefore, that as far as the imperialists are concerned, friendship and animosity have the same implications for the destruction of the oppressed and tyrannized nations, because it is under the guise of such friendship that a courteous pillage of their resources is carried out while their animosity is manifested in overt war and, if possible, an end to their political existence.

Now, the point to ponder is that the eminent leader of the revolution has said that U.S. friendship with Iran is in fact tantamount to a hostile path, which is strewn with poison, the nature and consistency of which we shall discuss in a future edition.

Note Signed With China on Mining Cooperation

LD2709230689 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—A note of understanding was inked here Wednesday between Iran and China at the end of a visit by Chinese Deputy Minister of Geology Zheng Wengu on bilateral cooperation in mining.

Deputy Minister of Mines and Metals in Geology Harati signed the agreement on behalf of Iran.

According to the note, the two countries will expand their cooperation in exchanging technical and scientific information. They will also exchange experts and collaborate in exploration and exploitation of gold mines. The agreement also provides a review of the feasibility study of establishing a 300-ton capacity mill for concentration

of argentous lead ore in Iran, training of technicians and purchase of Chinese machineries and equipments for mining.

The Chinese official also met with Iranian Minister of Mines and Metals Hoseyn Mahluji Wednesday.

During the meeting, Mahluji expressed the hope that with implementation of all articles of the agreement, a new move will be initiated in expansion of economic ties between Iran and China.

The Chinese official accompanied by a delegation from his country inspected several mines in Esfahan and Kerman this week.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Italian Aid for Rebels

LD2809193589 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman today called on the Rome government to clarify its position on a request to the government by a group of Italian parliamentarians to support the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO).

On Wednesday, 290 MPs sent a letter to the Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, urging the Rome government to support the MKO.

The spokesman, Morteza Sarmadi, said that because two Italian cabinet ministers were among those signing the letter, "we are awaiting an official explanation from the Italian Government so as to take due decision on the future of our ties with that country if we find out it supports terrorism."

He reiterated "the atmosphere prevailing in Italy's decision making centers such as its parliament indicates that country's fascist spirit and its intention to interfere in the internal affairs of other states."

"This move by the Italian parliamentarians follows a move taken earlier by their masters in the U.S. Congress who very soon took back their words and were forced to retreat," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Italian Envoy Notes Desire for Good Relations

LD2809210789 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In the absence of the Italian ambassador in Tehran, the charge d'affaires of that country was called to the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the director general of West European affairs, and was asked to give explanations regarding the statement issued by 209 deputies of the Italian Government [as heard]. The director general of West European affairs said: Such actions and granting Iraqi regime a loan of $2 billion, as well as Italian participation in production of Condor-2 missiles will leave negative impact on the Islamic Republic of Iran's political and economic relations with Italy.

The Italian charge d'affaires expressed his deep regrets following the action of the deputies of Italian parliament. He said: Even if this news is supposed correct, the official standpoint of the Italian Government is to have good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Disabled National Claims Torture by Italians

LD2809190889 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—Italian customs police tortured a disabled Iranian national at Rome airport Tuesday, breaking three of his teeth and hurting his eye, hands and feet.

'Ali Kashfi, a dental student in the United States on his way home aboard an Alitalia plane, was transferred to the Rome airport hospital for a serious sore throat Tuesday.

Kashfi handed his passport and ticket to the airport police chief before he left the airport for the city to get some medicine while being escorted by a policeman.

Instead of a pharmacy the policeman took him to the yard of the customs jail where he was tortured by four police officers including a woman for six hours.

"Excluding me there were several Afghan nationals, an African and a French Muslim in the detention house who had been there for eight days, while according to the law they should have been released or sent to the prison after 24 hours," Kashfi told IRNA here today.

He said he had requested to visit a representative of the human rights organisation but that their answer was further brutality. "The Italian police broke my head and hurt my eye, hands and feet with batons," he said.

The police brutality was not limited to the so-called detention house, Kashfi said, adding that he had also been beaten inside the plane.

Kashfi said the pilot, the crew and 70 other Iranian passengers of the Alitalia's Flight 714 had witnessed the unprecedented brutality. "As a proof I have taken a photograph with the pilot while my shirt was blood-stained."

The disabled Iranian student called on the Foreign Ministry to follow up the issue.

Velayati Meets With Counterparts at UN

LD2809154589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who is in New York to take part in the UN General Assembly, had separate meetings with the Austrian, Japanese, Indonesian, Yugoslav, and Ethiopian foreign ministers.

According to an IRNA report, in the meeting between Velayati and his Austrian counterpart, bilateral relations

and recent developments in the Iran-Iraq talks were discussed. The Japanese foreign minister, in his meeting with Velayati, expressed his country's willingness to continue and expand economic cooperation with Iran. The differences between the two countries regarding the Iran-Japan petrochemical project were discussed and both sides emphasized their desire for the speedy solution of these differences.

In his meeting with the Yugoslav foreign minister, our country's foreign minister discussed matters concerning the Nonaligned Movement, the Iran-Iraq talks, and questions of Afghanistan.

In the meetings with the Indonesian and Ethiopian foreign ministers, bilateral relations and regional developments were discussed. The Ethiopian foreign minister, whose country is a nonpermanent member of the Security Council, discussed the peace talks and the obstacles created by the Iraqi regime in the course of the talks. He called for collaboration between the two countries in international organizations as well as the expansion of bilateral relations.

Confers With More Ministers

LD2809192289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati met with the foreign ministers of the GDR, Bulgaria, Malaysia, and Syria today. According to IRNA, the meeting between Dr Velayati and the foreign minister of Bulgaria dealt with the expansion of bilateral relations, international issues, and the destructive effects of the deployment of chemical weapons in the world.

The Malaysian foreign minister, whose country is a member of the Security Council, reiterated in his meeting with Dr Velayati the need for full implementation of Un Resolution 598, and said: We support the full implementation of the resolution and the secretary general's efforts, and consider your position in this connection to be rational.

UN Envoy Presents Credentials to Perez de Cuellar

NC2909101589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations presented his credentials to the UN secretary general at UN Headquarters in New York yesterday. According to IRNA, Mr Kamal Kharrazi stressed that as the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he is prepared to put all his abilities and resources behind the UN secretary general's efforts to resolve international crises. Addressing the UN secretary general, he added: You are held in special esteem by the Iranian people and officials for these efforts, particularly those made in connection with the Iran-Iraq war. We hope your efforts to achieve a lasting peace in the world's troubled areas will succeed.

After expressing his hope that the cordial relations between the Iranian delegation to the United Nations and the UN Secretariat will expand, the UN secretary general said: I had the honor of meeting the present leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the United Nations when he was your country's president and hope to meet the current president, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as well.

Foreign Ministry Officials, UN Team Hold Talks

NC2909104289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Report by London correspondent 'Abdorrashidi]

[Text] Jan Eliasson, UN special emissary to the Iran-Iraq peace talks, will visit Tehran and Baghdad at the end of October. His visit was announced last night during a meeting between experts of our country's Foreign Ministry and a UN team which included Eliasson. It was also announced that Foreign Minister Velayati would meet the UN secretary general at UN Headquarters in New York this evening.

According to the UN team, Jan Eliasson will hear both sides' views on UN Security Council Resolution 598 during his visit to the region and work to create favorable conditions for its implementation.

Reza'i on Establishment of New IRGC Staff Command

LD2809171489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Studio interview with Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), by unidentified announcer, within the "In Step With Officials, in Line With the People" program; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] On the occasion of Holy Defense Week, we intend to discuss the dimensions and outcome of the holy defense during the 8-year victorious resistance of Islam's combatants. Our honorable guest is now in the broadcasting studio of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. His Excellency Mr Mohsen Reza'i, the commander in chief of the IRGC is our guest this week. Your Excellency Mr Reza'i we are extremely grateful to you for accepting our invitation to attend the program "In Step With Officials, in line with the people." Would you please make a preliminary speech to our listeners?

[Reza'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to say something about the new edict of the honorable leader ['Ali Khamene'i] on the appointment of the new chief of the General Staff, the commander of the [IRGC] Ground Forces, and the deputy commander in chief of the IRGC. The honorable leader's desire was to separate the IRGC General Staff from the Joint Staff, which had been merged previously when our dear chief, His Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, was in charge. His [Khamene'i's] conclusion

was that the three staffs, which had been merged to form the General Staff of the Armed Forces, should be separated; that is, the IRGC should have its own staff, the Army should have its own staff, and a General Staff of the Armed Forces should be created for general policy-making and implementation of the leader's commands in the Armed Forces.

The task was completed and our brothers in the IRGC and Army, which had merged due to war conditions, operational requirements, and the need for greater coordination, were allocated to a different staff. The IRGC General Staff will, therefore, be set up again and will begin its activities. Previously, the Ground Forces of the IRGC used to make use of the Ground Forces staff, and its command merged with the General Command. We have set up a ground forces staff [for the IRGC] ourselves again. About the post of my deputy, since our dear brother was allocated a new post next to the responsible authorities, we proposed our dear brother Mr Rahim Safavi. The honorable leader kindly agreed with this proposal and endorsed it and orders were issued.

[Announcer] Thank you very much. A dear listener has asked what the plans of the IRGC are regarding continuing activity of the oppressed Basij [mobilization] which has truly been a mighty arm of the IRGC during the 8 years of holy defense.

[Reza'i] Our most important plans are around two axes. First, the legislative axis to determine the place of Basij in the country; and second, the issue of implementing programs planned for the Basij by the Corps. As the first axis is more important and we used to dispatch our Basij forces who were joining the front enthusiastically from every organ and ministries, we did not have any problem organizing the Basij. Therefore, we did not pay much attention to the task of compiling laws for the benefit and support of the Basij forces. The major step we are taking now is to formulate laws and regulations needed by the Basij, for which we should either obtain permission from the honorable leader or should submit the proposal to the Islamic Majlis for ratification.

If we succeed in performing this task, as a consequence some rights will be allocated to our Basij forces in various organs and ministries. Since the Basij is a powerful defense potential for the country, every member of the Basij will be given permission to leave his job in any ministry, in any organization, or in any department. He will be given certain prerogatives to be summoned during times of mobilization to his place of service, or to be summoned for exercises and preparations. We have proposed this to the executive organs. If the esteemed Islamic Majlis approve this and if these rights are given to our Basij forces, then support for the Basij forces in government departments, inside the country and in various private and government sectors, will be increased and we will be able to keep our Basij forces with greater strength inside the IRGC and Basij organization; we will be able to summon them in times of need and increase their preparedness. As the situation of the country has almost returned to normal, we should write down these laws and regulations so that we can then see to executive programs. If, God willing, these are made ready more speedily then there are many executive programs which we will be ready to implement.

[Announcer] The issue of training also plays an important role.

[Reza'i] Yes, there are many programs for training and for organizing the membership of the Basijis, who have a long record in fighting and are in their mother [as heard] divisions. They should get to know their divisions and their organizational places; so that each person can join the operations in the shortest possible time, receive his weapons, and show his readiness.

Further Reportage on Holy Defense Week Maneuvers

IRGC Conducts Maneuvers

LD2809194989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] On the 7th day of Holy Defense Week, in order to glorify the memory of the esteemed martyrs of holy Mecca, last night amphibious maneuvers were held by the 62d Naval Brigade of rangers, the Qa'em al-Montaqem, of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], in the coastal waters off the port of Anzali. In this maneuver, the personnel of the 62d Naval Brigade of the IRGC used divers from the special Imam Husayn Battalion and communications battalion. Using light and heavy weapons and other equipment, they carried out amphibious operations in order to destroy the hypothetical enemy fortifications on the shores.

Exercises Held in Zahedan

LD2809213489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] On the occasion of Holy Defense Week exercises for expressing allegiance to the imam of the ummah were held yesterday afternoon with the participation of the Basij and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps forces under the command of Kowsar Headquarters, codenamed "Ya Allah, Ya Allah" in the Zarraqzadeh region of Zahedan.

According to the Central News Unit report, in these exercises the fighters of Islam, by crossing over minefields and explosive traps, occupied the front lines of a hypothetical enemy, strengthened their predetermined positions, and denied the enemy control over communication axes.

Tribes Gather in Aleshtar

LD2809213789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] On the 6th day of Holy Defense Week and to pay tribute to 8 years of devoted defense, the first gathering of fighters and leaders of various tribes and clans from

Bakhtaran, Ilam, Khuzestan, Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari, Esfahan, and Lorestan was held in the tribal area of Aleshtar in Khorramabad.

According to an IRNA report, the participants issued a statement in which they renewed their allegiance to the aspirations of the great leader of the revolution and expressed their allegiance to and support for the esteemed position of the leader and the president. They also condemned the crime of the Al Sa'ud regime for martyring a number of Muslims in holy Mecca.

Basij Stage Maneuvers in Arak

NC2909095989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Five battalions of the Basiji [mobilization of the oppressed] forces and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps of the Arak unit held the "Samen- ol-A'emmeh" maneuvers at the Samen ol-A'emmeh training garrison in Arak District to honor 8 years of holy defense and demonstrate their combat readiness.

According to the Central News Unit, these extensive maneuvers, covering an area of 3,000 square km, involved the use of light- and medium-caliber weapons and support equipment. The maneuvers recalled the Islamic combatants' epic achievements in breaking the siege of Abadan and liberating Khorramshahr, and reaffirmed their readiness to repell all forms of aggression.

The Central News Unit also reports that the Basijis of Tafresh District staged the "Isar" maneuvers yesterday afternoon in a mountainous area around Tafresh. The maneuvers involved a multipronged attack to destroy enemy strongholds and occupy enemy positions.

Biography of New Chief of Armed Forces Command

LD2809110789 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—Dr Hasan Firuzabadi was appointed Tuesday by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, head of the Armed Forces Command Headquarters. The following is his brief biography.

Born to a religious family in 1951 at a village near the holy city of Mashhad, Firuzabadi enrolled at the medical school of Mashhad University after completing his high school studies in 1969.

After the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution, he became a member of the Central Council of Construction Jihad in Khorasan Province. Later, he was appointed by the then prime minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i head of the Iranian chapter of the Red Crescent Society.

He served as a member of the Central Council of Construction Jihad from 1982 to 1985. In May 1985, Firuzabadi was appointed deputy premier for defence affairs. Since that year he has served in various supervisory functions with government organs which include mainly the following.

1. Prime minister's representative at the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Military Headquarters. 2. Secretary of a government commission for supporting industrial engineering operations for the war. 3. In charge of commission for military purchases. 4. Secretary of the central headquarters for war support. 5. In charge of commission for military industrial research. 6. Member of the Executive Board of the High Council for War Support. 7. In charge of Basij [mobilization] Headquarters for supporting war shelters. 8. In charge of the central headquarters for war relief operations. 9. In charge of headquarters for wounded fighters. 10. Member of the Advisory Commission of the Supreme Defence Council. 11. In charge of government employees serving with the National Mobilization Headquarters (Basij).

Dr Firuzabadi was appointed deputy chief of the Armed Forces Command Headquarters in 1988 which office held concurrent with his other duties.

He is married and has five children.

*Fairness Urged in Judging Proposed Cabinet

46400103 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Aug 89 pp 1, 12

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Yesterday, in a letter to the Majlis, the president presented the list of his proposed cabinet. The list is composed of twenty-two names the president considers suitable, under the present circumstances, for accepting the responsibility of participation in the cabinet.

The president, according to the Constitution, has the right and the duty to introduce his choices for various cabinet posts to the Majlis and seek votes of confidence for them. Up to this point, it was the natural right of the president to decide independently about the form of his cabinet—after considering all factors and consulting with experts and those concerned in order to take advantage of their views—and inform the Majlis of his latest conclusions.

The president took advantage of this right, and introduced his designated cabinet to the Majlis to obtain a vote of confidence. From now on, it is the Majlis that must fulfill its responsibility and announce its evaluation of each and every one of the cabinet ministers.

Naturally, in this phase of evaluating the qualifications of the cabinet ministers, and also issuing their vote of confidence, the Majlis and the respected deputies are fully empowered. This is a right recognized by the Constitution for the Majlis and the representatives of the people.

In the phase of exploiting this right, representatives can cast negative and positive votes for each of the suggested ministers. This is their right, in the position of the

people's representatives, to act in line with their assessment and discretion and declare their decisive view.

In this, also, certain issues require deliberation. First, respected deputies, in deliberating about people and their judgment of the qualifications and capabilities of individuals, should consider a sense of fairness and justice and act with God on their minds. In regard to issues in favor or against someone, they should have righteousness in mind and be sure that what is being said is right or otherwise.

There is a big pitfall for everyone here and the possibility of danger. Only by considering piety, adherence to principles, and keeping in mind righteousness can one pass through such a pitfall and choose the right path. This serious expectation exists for the Majlis and the respected deputies to uphold the best interests of the regime above and beyond personal or fraternal interests, and consider what it is that the revolution needs at the present crossroads.

The Majlis and the respected deputies are empowered to approve or reject the nominated ministers. However, the expectation of the nation and all those who are eager to see the glory of the revolution all over the world is that in this sensitive phase, decisionmaking about the future should take place in accordance with the requirements of the revolution. Naturally, in this case there will be no room for showing off or any personal animosities, and everyone will feel a double responsibility for what they say and how they vote.

The other point is that Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, lately has introduced himself as the son of the Majlis. Everyone knows that such a view, on his part, shows ultimate modesty towards the Majlis, and he indeed is a father figure for the Majlis and the deputies.

The 10-year tenure of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Majlis has proven to everyone that he holds the position of spiritual guide in the Majlis and among the deputies, and has managed Majlis affairs with his special efficiency and wisdom.

The secret of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's success is a result of the understanding and cooperation he established with each and every one of the deputies. He never ruled the Majlis but in order to manage [the affairs of] the Majlis, he took advantage of the best opportunities and most suitable methods. It is for this reason that he gained respect among deputies belonging to various factions.

Now, as president, he has made his decision—with a full understanding of the characters, the views of the Majlis deputies, and the needs of the society—and has presented his designated cabinet to the Majlis to gain their vote of confidence.

It is now up to the Majlis deputies to express their views on his cabinet. However, in all phases [of decisionmaking] it must be considered that the third Majlis was formed by the heroic people of Iran, under the barrage of the missiles and bombs of the vengeful enemies of Islam and the Koran, and every citizen will be watching to see how their representatives are going to fulfill their responsibility.

*Responsibility to Government, Public Viewed

46400098 Tehran ETTELAAT in Persian
21 Aug 89 pp 1, 4

[Text] The new cabinet, be it composed of past or new members, must pay attention to the reasonable and logical expectations of the people.

A cabinet member must be one who has, somehow, gained experience in these past 10 years and has a report card, a reputation, or an indication of his efforts in various areas of management that have been of interest to the responsible officials. God willing, in regard to an individual's good reputation and management expertise, it shall not fall under the famous proverb: The unwritten dictation is without mistakes. It is not necessary for the selected individual to have previous experience as a cabinet minister. However, the presence of this qualification, along with other qualifications, may be a good reason for selection of the best choice. What is certain is that when we rightly transfer the responsibility of leadership to a circle which possesses the advantage of experience in the physical and sociological management of the regime, then with regard to other responsibilities of lower echelons—such as responsibility attributed to a cabinet post—we must set actual experience as one of the criteria.

Ten years have passed since the victory of the revolution and the establishment of the regime. Some old but intricate questions regarding the judicial system have been answered. Responsible officials of the judicial and executive branch have discovered not-so-simple difficulties in connection with non-centralized and pluralistic management. The imam, in his messages and explicit orders, marked the boundaries of the government's involvement and the people's participation in running all the nation's affairs, and in some regards, has even defined certain principles related to this issue. A cabinet minister must, as a rule of thumb, believe in governmental supervision as well as public participation. However, he should not lead governmental supervision in a direction which defeats the purpose or drags public participation to a point where it may, in effect, amount to the active participation of the rich and wealthy capitalist investors.

A cabinet minister must, in word and deed, be subject to the leadership, and also the law; and within the limits prescribed by law, be in harmony with, support, and follow the president. Presently, the 5-year program of the country has been prepared and is ready for presentation to the Majlis. The leader of the revolution, according to the Constitution, has the right to determine the principles and fundamental guidelines of the policies, and

these policies have largely been declared by the leadership of the revolution. The essence of 10 years of experience has been reflected in the texts of the messages of the leader, in the 5-year program, and also in the doctrine of the president. Therefore, today is a day that our responsible, capable, moderate, experienced, and worthy cabinet minister will be less involved with excessiveness.

One should not think that merely changing the names of ministers and their supporters will solve problems. An increase in production, managing the present resources, imports and the logical, suitable, and required approach to their distribution, providing a budget and needed support for the implementation of plans and projects, and the execution of policies and programs are not problems that may, as some people think, be quickly resolved by simply replacing individuals or importing worthy and super experts from other planets to Earth and Iran. The replacement of cabinet ministers is definitely—as needed—useful, effective, and necessary, but it is not the principle key to resolving problems, especially 10 years after the victory of the revolution.

Pakistan

Kabul's Protest Over Rocket Attacks 'Rejected'

BK2909033089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Pakistan has rejected a protest lodged by the Kabul authorities on Sunday [24 September], alleging that rival groups fired rockets on Kabul from 16 August to 23 September as directed by Pakistan.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was informed in Islamabad yesterday that the war is an internal affair of Afghanistan and that Pakistan has nothing to do with the rocket attacks and with the war between the Afghan mujahidin and Kabul regime's forces. Pakistan is fully adhering to the Geneva Accords [on Afghanistan].

Sri Lanka

Indian Generals Say Goals Met, Pullout Uncertain

BK2909072089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0652 GMT 29 Sep 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, Sept 29 (AFP)—Indian troops in Sri Lanka have largely accomplished their military objectives after two years of bitter fighting with diehard Tamil guerrillas, Indian army generals said here.

"We have been able to marginalise the LTTE militarily," said Major General Jameel Mehmood, commanding officer of the Indian contingent deployed in this sprawling eastern coastal district.

"I do not say they are non-existent," he said. "But they cannot operate at the place of their own choosing anymore."

But Lieutenant General Amarjit Singh Kalkat, commander of the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF), was non-committal when asked whether his 41,000 men would pull out by December 31—the deadline set by a September 18 Indo-Sri Lankan agreement.

"It is neither this way nor that way," Lt. Gen. Kalkat told a group of reporters from New Delhi in this northeastern port town on Thursday [28 September]. Similar statements by Indian officials have prompted angry reaction from Colombo, which wants the IPKF off the island by December 31, the date set by the September 18 agreement which also called for a ceasefire.

Lt. Gen. Kalkat said his troops would be ready to return home depending on the situation in the strife-torn nation where anti-Indian feelings run high. He refused to say if a complete withdrawal would be accomplished by year's end. Other army officers said the IPKF had largely accomplished its objectives in Sri Lanka. They claimed that Indian military operations had driven the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) into peace talks with Colombo that began in April.

The IPKF was deployed under a 1987 accord aimed at ending a bloody campaign for a Tamil homeland called Eelam in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. The LTTE, the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, repudiated the accord and refused to surrender its weapons, prompting an Indian military offensive in October 1987. Fighting as of Tuesday had left 1,109 Indian soldiers dead and 2,854 officers and men wounded, according to figures provided by Lt. Gen. Kalkat. He said the IPKF had killed 2,592 LTTE guerrillas and captured 1,185 more. The general gave no figures of civilian casualties in the fighting.

Brigadier N.K. Kapur, who is in charge of civilian affairs in the northeast, said the IPKF had also helped bring about normality and enforce law and order across the region. Essential public services were functioning normally, he said. But the claim was promptly disputed by the provincial government.

Provincial Chief Minister Varadaraja Perumal and Sam Tambimuttu, a Tamil MP [member of parliament] who lives in eastern Batticaloa District, voiced fears that an Indian troop withdrawal would be followed by chaos and bloodshed. Mr. Perumal told the Indian reporters that if India pulled out its troops before a Tamil security force was set up for the Northeastern Province, the resultant vacuum would result in renewed ethnic violence.

"We cannot accept the Sri Lankan Army," said Mr. Perumal, a former university teacher who heads the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF). "It is a Sinhalese army," he added, referring to Sri Lanka's majority community. Thousands of people

died in Sinhalese-Tamil ethnic violence in the years leading up to the IPKF's deployment.

Mr. Perumal said he was dissatisfied with the powers given to his provincial government by Colombo and said the situation in the northeast was "far from normal."

He said the province had been without electricity for two-and-a-half months, alleged that the Sinhalese were colonising the area and that LTTE cadres were openly going about with arms and gunning down their opponents. The IPKF implemented a ceasefire against the Tiger guerrillas on September 20. General Kalkat said the ceasefire was holding despite minor truce violations by the LTTE.

IPKF Fears New Violence After Withdrawal

BK2909040289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] The chief minister of the Northeastern Provincial Council in Sri Lanka, Mr Varadararaja Perumal, has offered to share power with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] if it joins the democratic process. He said he is even prepared to relinquish the chief ministership in the LTTE's favor.

Mr Perumal's offer came close on the heels of his earlier announcement to hold reelection to the provincial council if the LTTE agreed to participate. Addressing the visiting newsmen from India in Trincomalee yesterday, the chief minister cautioned that the withdrawal of the PKF [peacekeeping force] before effecting the real devolution of power will result in the disintegration of Sri Lanka. He said the crucial issue is who will fill the vacuum and ensure the safety of Tamils after the departure of the PKF.

Mr Perumal wanted the newly created Citizen's Volunteer Force to be strengthened and put at the disposal of the provincial government. He said he has sent a proposal in this regard to President Premadasa. In no situation, Mr Perumal said, should the Tamils be left at the mercy of the Sri Lankan Army.

The general officer commanding the PKF, Lieutenant General Kalkat, told the visiting newsmen that the PKF has achieved the main objectives of its mission in Sri Lanka. He said although the de-induction plan has been drawn up, several Sri Lankan agencies will have to be involved to work it out. The general clarified that the PKF has not declared any cease-fire; it has only suspended offensive military operations. Its role in maintaining law and order in the Northeastern Province continues.

AIR's [All-India Radio's] special correspondent, Akshaya Rao, who talked to a cross-section of the people in Trincomalee and Batticaloa, reports that the local inhabitants, while feeling satisfied about the restoration of normalcy in their towns, fear that violence might erupt once the PKF leaves the country. Our correspondent says local leaders and commanders of the PKF feel that much will now depend on Colombo's intiative to further the peace process which has already been set on course.

Indian Troops Dismantling Small Detachments

BK2809111289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Colombo, Sept 28 (AFP)—Indian troops are dismantling small detachments in remote parts of Sri Lanka's northeast ahead of their total withdrawal by the end of the year, a top defence official here said Thursday [28 September].

General Cyril Ranatunga, secretary to the Ministry of State for Defence, told reporters here that Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) soldiers were currently moving towards the two main sea ports in the region.

"What is happening now is that they are closing down small detachments. The idea is to move out of Kankesanthurai and Trincomalee ports. It is a big exercise," the general said.

He said top commanders of the IPKF and the Sri Lankan Army were due to meet later Thursday on the rate of withdrawal and related matters.

Colombo and New Delhi agreed on September 18 on a total pullout of the currently 41,000-strong IPKF by December 31 ending a bitter diplomatic row on the withdrawal issue.

Gen. Ranatunga said some 600 IPKF soldiers had left Sri Lanka since a truce between the IPKF and the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), went into effect on September 20. The ceasefire was holding except for a shooting incident in which three people were killed, the general said, adding that it was "not a deliberate attempt" to break the truce.

The Colombo government is holding peace talks with the LTTE in a bid to end ethnic strife in the northeast where the island's two million Tamil minority is populated.

Indian Army 'Forcibly Recruiting' Volunteer Force

BK2809112389 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] The Indian Army has been engaged in forcibly recruiting, training, and arming the so-called Citizens of Volunteer Force in the north and east Sri Lanka, which is effectively the armed squad of the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], states an article appearing in THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY of India monitored by LANKAPUVATH. The influential Indian journal states that the Indian Government has been financing the whole operation and was trying to gain enough time to complete these efforts. If the Government of India is hoping

through these maneuvers to consolidate a quisling Tamil government in northern Sri Lanka, it is unlikely to succeed.

THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY continues that the charged atmosphere that has followed 2 years of military operations by the Indian Army, proximity to the Indian authorities, and the backing of the Indian troops cannot amount to less than the kiss of death for the EPRLF and its government as far as the sentiments of the Tamil people are concerned. The Government of India keeps protesting its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. If these protestations have any meaning at all, they should acknowledge that the protection of the Tamils in Sri Lanka and the working out of an acceptable arrangement for the devolution of powers to the provincial government in north Sri Lanka are not matters in which India can have any role to play.

'Volunteer' Tamil Youths Trained by IPKF

BK2909080289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] In the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, efforts are underway to build internal forces to ensure security of the people and tackle the law and order problems. The Citizens Volunteer Force [CVF] consisting mostly of Tamils is already 3,000 strong with its ranks in various stages of training with the peacekeeping force [PKF]. The chief minister of the province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, has, however, demanded that at least 30,000 volunteers should be raised and put under provincial administration. He told newsmen in Trincomalee that this is necessary to ensure security and safety of all groups after the PKF leaves the island.

AIR [All-India Radio] special correspondent, Akshaya Rao, who went around to the CVF recruitment centers and camps in Batticaloa, reports that the response of the youth to the enrollment drive has been spontaneous and enthusiastic.

General Says Peace 'Round the Corner'

BK2809124589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1118 GMT 28 Sep 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 28 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—General Cyril Ranatunge, secretary to the minister of state for defence, said today that peace is round the corner, good times are ahead.

The general, speaking to newsmen at today's weekly cabinet briefing in Colombo said: "I am an optimist. Peace is round the corner. Good times are ahead. Peace will dawn fairly soon. Why not?"

The general said no killings by vigilante groups had been reported since the security forces suspended counter subversion operations, Wednesday morning [27 September].

There has been a significant decrease in violence during the last 24 hours. A provincial councillor had been attacked in the Uva Province and two security guards had been killed. A railway locomotive driver had also been killed yesterday in Colombo, while buses had been burnt, particularly in the North Central Province.

A few cases of arson such as burning of post offices, theft of cash and stamps from post offices and theft of cash and tickets from bus conductors had been reported.

He said the disruptions in the plantations had been overcome. Serious damage had been caused to some estates to the extent that factories had been burnt. Plantations in most areas were working well.

The most badly affected by the disruptions were the small holders who had to take their produce to factories to be processed.

General Ranatunge said the subversives were in disarray.

Industries Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe, who presided at the news briefing, illustrating the turnaround in the situation said one month ago the question being asked was as to how long the government would survive. Today, the question asked was "how long can the subversives survive?" He said, the government was trying to put the pieces back in place.

General Ranatunge said there had been a mixed reaction to the call to subversives to surrender. Subversives had surrendered in all areas and the highest number, 31, had been reported from Anuradhapura. He said the ice had been broken and more were coming in.

The main centres for surrender were government agents and AGA's [assistant government agent's] offices and these figures had not yet been processed. The (?surrenderees) were being handed over by the civilian authorities to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports who were handling their rehabilitation.

General Ranatunge said, the decision on whether to extend the current 72 hours suspension of counter subversion operations by the security forces would be decided by the government and the leaders of other political parties at a meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening.

Violence Declines as Truce Enters Final Day

BK2909074089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Colombo, Sept 29 (AFP)—There was a marked drop in violence across Sri Lanka as a government-declared truce entered its third and final day Friday,

despite sporadic rebel strikes, officials here said. Suspected anti-government militants ambushed a police jeep in Southern Province by throwing bombs at it early Friday, seriously wounding two policemen, district officials said.

Rebels, believed to be from the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) felled trees across roads to slow the evacuation of the injured, the officials said. Despite the blast and a few minor incidents of arson and attacks on state-run buses, there was a sharp drop in violence since the ceasefire went into effect at 0600 (0030 GMT) Wednesday, a military spokesman here said.

Opposition politicians have asked the government to extend the truce in a bid to allow more militants to give themselves up and restore peace in the strife-torn island republic. According to official figures nearly 100 suspected rebels have surrendered since Wednesday.

Officials said the government and the opposition would meet late Friday to consider recommendations of a government-appointed monitoring committee on ceasefire violations before a decision on extension is taken.

Press reports quoted a spokesman for the three-member truce monitoring committee, headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, that it had received about 40 complaints from the security forces and the public on Wednesday. A top defence official, General Cyril Ranatunga, Thursday said the response to the ceasefire was "good" and he was hopeful that it would bring peace to the troubled island.

"The response is good. We had many more incidents on other days," Gen. Ranatunga told reporters here Thursday. He also said that the JVP was in disarray and its capacity to organise strikes and work stoppages had been greatly reduced during the last few days. Industries Minister and Cabinet Spokesman Ranil Wickremasinghe said there had been no response from the rebels to the government's peace overture, but he hoped that they would eventually come round.

In another incident, security officials said an Army mobile patrol was fired at by the rebels in the northwestern Kurunegala District early Thursday. Troops searched the area and arrested one rebel suspect and recovered two Chinese-made assault rifles, five shotguns and a large quantity of ammunition. They said suspected rebels also torched sub-post offices in some areas and robbed tickets from state-owned buses.

Communique on Incidents in 'Last 24 Hours'

BK2809113189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1028 GMT 28 Sep 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 28 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—A government communique issued today states that the following incidents were reported to the Joint Operations Command within the last 24 hours.

In Colombo, an unknown armed gang set fire to all documents and furniture of the Pepiliyana post office. They had also robbed cash and stamps from the sub-post mistress.

On information received, police recovered an unlicensed shotgun from a suspect in Moratuwa.

On information, security forces recovered a Browning pistol, five electrical detonators and five locally made shotguns from a house in Arangala.

From houses in Diddhamulla, Hokandara and Maligawatte, security forces recovered three galkattas [locally-made pistols], cartridges, shotguns and explosive thread.

An unknown armed gang abducted two sons of P. Samarawickrama of Padukka.

Subversives set fire to four Isuzu lorries and Hiace vans belonging to the Maharagama Cooperative Society.

At Gampaha, unknown persons set fire to all documents of the Debahera sub-post office.

Official on Alleged U.S. Funding of Subversives

BK2809145589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1423 GMT 28 Sep 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—Replying to questions at today's weekly news briefing in Colombo about a question asked in parliament by the MP [member of parliament] for Matara District, H.R. Piyasiri, about a U.S. diplomat supporting subversives, Cabinet spokesman Industries Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe said that two or three matters had arisen as to whether foreign funding is being given to the subversive movement in the South. In the course of that speech he brought up one matter that one Mr. Mayo who is a second secretary in the U.S. Embassy had been involved in an incident at the Colombo International Airport, Katunayake, where he was found with an identity card which was issued in the name of another officer. Mr. Mayo had apparently given an explanation saying that he had driven Mr. Prins Gunasekera (a lawyer politician) and his family to the airport.

The airport authorities had also brought to the notice of the government that subsequently Mr. Mayo handed over a certain bag after customs clearances which in itself was in violation of the established procedures at the airport. This matter was raised by Mr. Piyasiri to bring it to the notice of the minister of foreign affairs.

Mr. Wickremasinghe said that from what he understood the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had laid this matter with the U.S. Embassy.

Another matter brought up was that 5,000 U.S. dollars had been given for filing of certain papers against the security forces in Sri lanka.

Associated with Industries Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe at today's Cabinet news briefing were state minister of information, A.J. Ranasinghe, and secretary to the minister of state for defence, General Cyril Ranatunge.

President Premadasa Meets TELO Delegation

BK2809131289 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1155 GMT 28 Sep 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 28 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa continued the consultations under the All-Party Conference [APC] when he met a delegation of Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO) led by Mr. N. Sri Kantha, states a presidential secretariat news release.

It further states that Hon. [Honorable] A.M.S. Adhikari, minister of tourism and acting minister of foreign affairs [and] Mr. John Amaratunge were associated with the president at the discussions.

The TELO delegation comprised Mr. N. Sri Kantha, Mr. K. Karunakaran, MP [member of Parliament], Mr. A Selvam, Mr. S. Vinothalingam and Mr. M.K. Sivajilingam.

Observers present at the consultations were as follows:

Mr. T. Premaraj and Mr. C.T. Rasaratnam of the Ceylon Workers Congress; Mr. V.P. Ganeshan and Mr. Ashraff Aziz of the Democratic Workers Congress; Mr. M.M. Abdul Kalam, Mr. S.M. Shahabdeen and Mr. M.J.A. Saheed of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress; Mr. Ariya Bulegoda, Mr. M.P.B. Ariyawansa and Mr. Dallas Drickze of the Sri Lanka Progressive Front; Dr. Chanaka Amaratunge and Mr. Rohan Edirisinghe of the Liberal Party; Mr. G.G. Ponnambalam (Jnr) [Junior] and Mr. Motilal Nehru of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress; Mr. Ariyawansa Pathirage of the Sri Lanka Mahajana Paksaya; Mr. P. Sivapalan of the Tamil United Liberation Front; and Mr. K. Kandasamy of the Democratic Peoples Liberation Front.

Mr. Sri Kantha said that the country was facing a severe crisis. The ceasefire conducted by the government is a constructive effort and should be extended indefinitely. All political parties are participating in the APC and the need of the hour is to bring in the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna]. The APC could be the forum to remove any grievances they may have.

In regard to ethnic problems, he said that the experience of devolution was frustrating and that the only viable solution is a federal system. When the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] withdraws, a full fledged provincial police force should be constituted to fill the vacuum. The problems facing the country must be looked at and resolved from a national perspective.

President Meets Political Party Delegation

BK2809134589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1207 GMT 28 Sep 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—His Excellency President R. Premadasa met a delegation of the Eksath Lanka Janatha Pakshaya (ELJP) led by Mr. Rukman Senanayake at the presidential secretariat today, a news release issued by the presidential secretariat states. The news release further states that associated with his excellency the president at these consultations under the all-party conference were Hon. [Honorable] S. Adhikari, minister of tourism, and Hon. John Amaratunge, acting minister of foreign affairs. Mr. Rukman Senanayake, Dr. Gamini Wijesekera, Mr. K.D. Wimalasena, Mr. Ariyananda Samarasinghe and Mr. Bernard Aruliah comprised the ELJP delegation.

The observers present at the consultations were as follows:

Mr. K. Karunakaram, MP [member of parliament], Mr. N. Sri Kantha, Mr. M.K. Sivagie Lingam, Mr. A. Selvam and Mr. S. Vinothalingam of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation; Mr. T. Permaraj and Mr. C.T. Rasaratnam of the Ceylon Workers Congress; Mr. V.P. Ganeshan and Mr. Ashraff Aziz of the Democratic Workers Congress; Mr. M.M. Abdul Kalam, Mr. S.M. Shahabdeen and Mr. M.J.A. Saheed of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress; Mr. Ariya Bulegoda, Mr. M.P.B. Ariyawansa and Mr. Dallas Dirckze of the Sri Lanka Progressive Front; Dr. Chanaka Amaratunge and Mr. Rohan Edirisinghe of the Liberal Party; Mr. G.G. Ponnambalam (Junior) and Mr. Motilal Nehru of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress; Mr. Ariyawansa Pathirage of the Sri Lanka Mahajana Paksaya; Mr. P. Sivapalan of the Tamil United Liberation Front; Mr. K. Kandasamy of the Democratic Peoples Liberation Front.

Mr. Rukman Senanayake said that the reasons for the present violence are diverse and the participation of the militant groups was essential to resolve the crisis. He welcomed the president's decision to suspend counter subversive military operations. The militants must now be brought to the negotiating table to achieve a political settlement which alone could bring a durable peace. He said that today there was mistrust on all sides. This could be removed if a temporary national government was formed with representatives of all parties now in parliament. After peace and normalcy is restored, fresh elections should be held for parliament. Thereafter a national government based on the committee system

should be formed with representatives of all parties in parliament, as such a government would best be able to deal with all the national problems.

Perumal on New Elections, LTTE Participation

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[Text] The chief minister of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, has said he is ready to relinquish his office if the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] gives up violence and joins the mainstream of democratic life. Mr Perumal was talking to a group of visiting newsmen from Delhi in Trincomalee today. Mr Varadaraja Perumal said his party, the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], is ready to go for fresh elections if the LTTE is prepared to work for the safety and security of the Tamils in Northeast.

In an interview to an AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent, the EPRLF general secretary, Mr Padmanabha, has also said that his party would prefer fresh elections in the Northeast if peace returns to the province. He said all Tamil groups should lay down arms and create a congenial atmosphere.